KARAKURI CIRCUS

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

2

DELCOURT

KARAKURI CIRCUS

2

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

Summary of Volume 1 :

If Narumi Kato, 18 years old, has one quality is his surprisingly strong body, along with an excellent handling of marital arts. One day, his doctor tells him that he's suffering from a very rare and dangerous disease. This disease could kill him by choking him if he doesn't make the people around him laugh. One day, he meets Masaru Saiga, the youngest son of the president of a huge corporation. Many people are after his life because he inherited his father's fortune after his death, but those people are not human, they're puppets with human bodies. After a battle, Masaru and Kato get to meat Shirogane who is the a puppet master trained since childhood to protect Masaru's life. Kato and Masaru don't trust her at first but they needed her especially after they failed to protect Masaru which was kidnapped by strange puppet masters… How will Kato and Shirogane react, can they save Masaru?

KARAKURI CIRCUS VOLUME 2

ACT 1: MASARU CHAPTER 9 "ON THE WAY TO THE SAIGA RESIDENCE"
ACT 1: MASARU CHAPTER 10 "ASSAULT"
ACT 1: MASARU CHAPTER 11 "THE MECHANICAL DOOR/HELL"
ACT 1: MASARU CHAPTER 12 "PERSONAL FILE 1"
ACT 1: MASARU CHAPTER 13 - "PERSONAL FILE 2"
ACT 1: MASARU CHAPTER 14 "HURT"
ACT 1: MASARU CHAPTER 15 "ACTION"
ACT 1: MASARU CHAPTER 16 "HIGHS AND LOWS"
ACT 1: MASARU CHAPTER 17 "MASARU'S REBIRTH"

ACT 1: MASARU - CHAPTER 9 : "ON THE WAY TO THE SAIGA RESIDENCE"

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DOK
VOLCAN
POMADE
MASARU ...
DON'T WORRY, I'M COMING TO SAVE YOU!
OTH
SHI

SHIROGANE, ARE YOU READY ?
... YES ...
CLAC

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SAVE THE MASTER ?

WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK ?

WE MUST GO OURSELVES ... IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE MASARU.

I'M CERTAIN WE CAN'T TRUST ASHIHANA.

... AND TRUST ME, THE GUY IS BAD NEWS.

HIS UNCLE'S NAME IS ZENJI SAIGA

THE KID WAS TAKEN TO THE RESIDENCE OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF SAIGA ENTERPRISES, IT'S AT KARUIZAWA

WHY DID YOU TELL US ALL THAT STUFF ?

EH, ASHIHANA ...

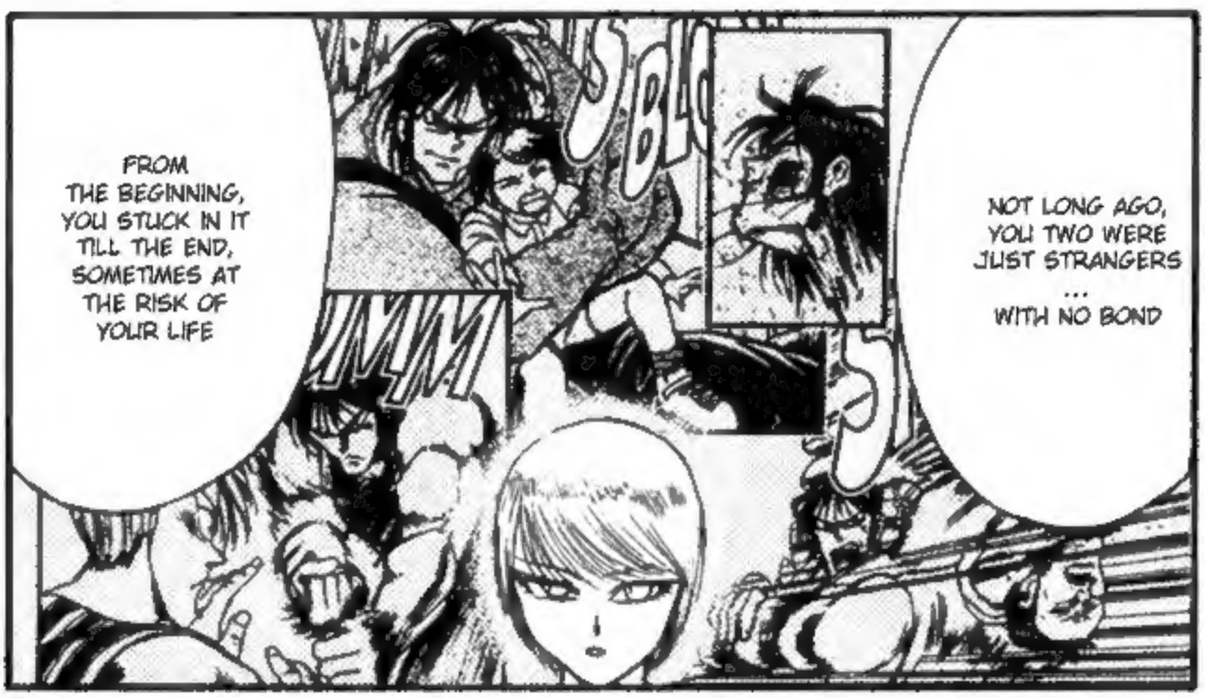
"THE ASSASSIN CLAN" HAS ITS PRIDE, WE CAN'T LET "THE ABDUCTORS" DO AS THEY WISH

WELL, GOTTA GO

IS IT A TRAP ?
MY ONLY GOAL IS TO SAVE MASARU !!
AND FOR NOW, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S KEEPING ME FROM BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF YOU!
... I THINK YOU'RE PLOTTING SOMETHING.
KNOW WHAT ...
THINK WHATEVER YOU WANT
HE HE HE! ...
YOU OR US ...
I LOVE COMPETITION ...
MAYBE YOU'VE DECIDED TO ACT ...
... WHO WILL GET BACK MASARU FIRST ?
JUST AN INTUITION ...

YOU
...
WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING SO HARD FOR THE MASTER ?

HUH?
SFX
THAT WASN'T MY QUESTION
...


FROM THE BEGINNING, YOU STUCK IN IT TILL THE END, SOMETIMES AT THE RISK OF YOUR LIFE
NOT LONG AGO, YOU TWO WERE JUST STRANGERS
...
WITH NO BOND

LOOK OUT DEAR! YOU'RE GOING TO FALL!

...
WANTED TO PROTECT THEIR LIVES AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE
...
IN ALL COUNTRIES I'VE LIVED IN, EVERYONE I MET
...

THERE YOU GO! COME ON, GET UP.
AAAAHHH!
SPLAT
OUH
STAND UP ON YOUR OWN !
IIMM
BRAVO HONEY, YOU DID IT!
MOOOMYYY !!
HOUH
BOUH HOUH
SNIF
SNIF

EVEN IF I TOLD YOU WHY I DO THIS
..
..
I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD BELIEVE ME.

RMM
RRROOM
SO... WE GOING OR WHAT ?!

VRR-ROM

I STILL DON'T TRUST YOU
..
BUT I NEED A DRIVER
TON

VRRR
HAH! JEEZ, WHO DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?!
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE . .
VOOM

KARUIZAWA

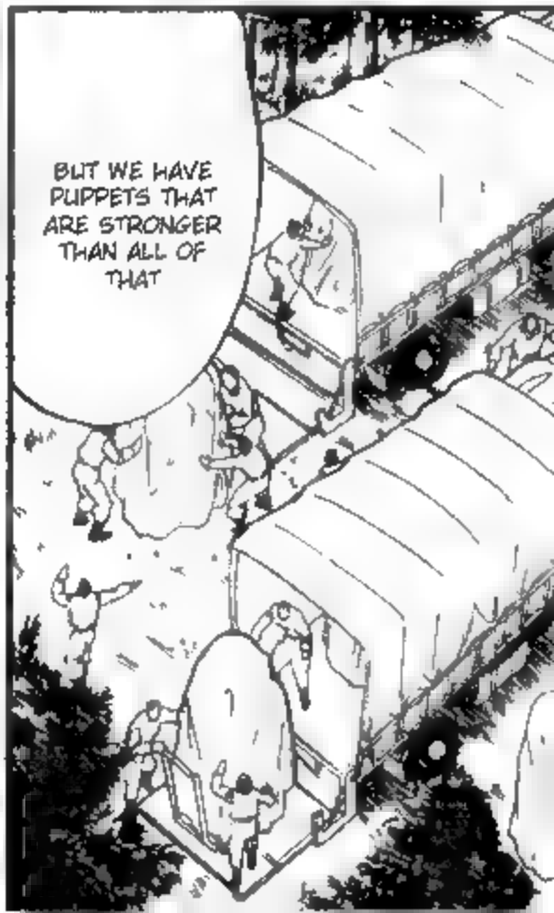
SAH

IT WAS BUILD ON A LAND OF ABOUT 8 ACRES
IT'S ONE OF THE SECONDARY RESIDENCES OF THE SAIGA FAMILY ..
THERE ARE THREE MAIN BUILDINGS, ONE WITH A JAPANESE STYLE, THE SECOND WITH A CHINESE STYLE AND THE THIRD WITH A WESTERN STYLE .

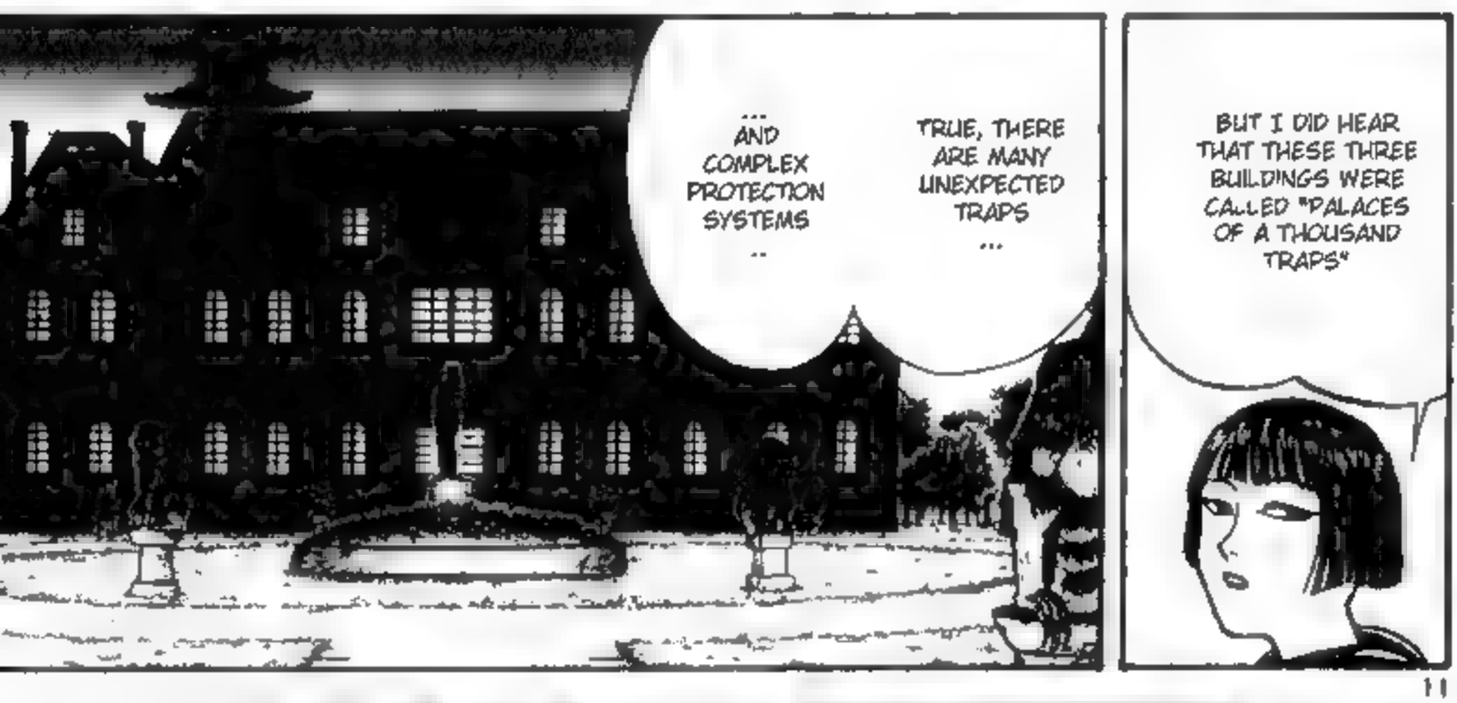
THERE ARE ALSO DOGS THAT WATCH OVER THE GARDEN ..

ALL OF THEM ARE ARMED WITH GUNS OR SWORDS
60 TO 70 PEOPLE GUARD THE PLACE AT ALL TIMES

THEY ONLY HAVE ORDINARY GUARDS AND SIX PUPPETS .


BUT WE HAVE PUPPETS THAT ARE STRONGER THAN ALL OF THAT

WE CANNOT FAIL !
EACH MORE TALENTED THAN THE NEXT.
... BUT WE ARE PUPPET MASTERS !
WE HAVE FEW PEOPLE ON HAND ..

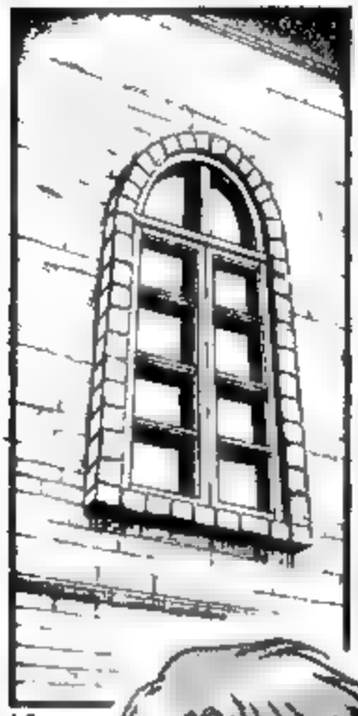

... AND COMPLEX PROTECTION SYSTEMS ..
TRUE, THERE ARE MANY UNEXPECTED TRAPS ...
BUT I DID HEAR THAT THESE THREE BUILDINGS WERE CALLED "PALACES OF A THOUSAND TRAPS"

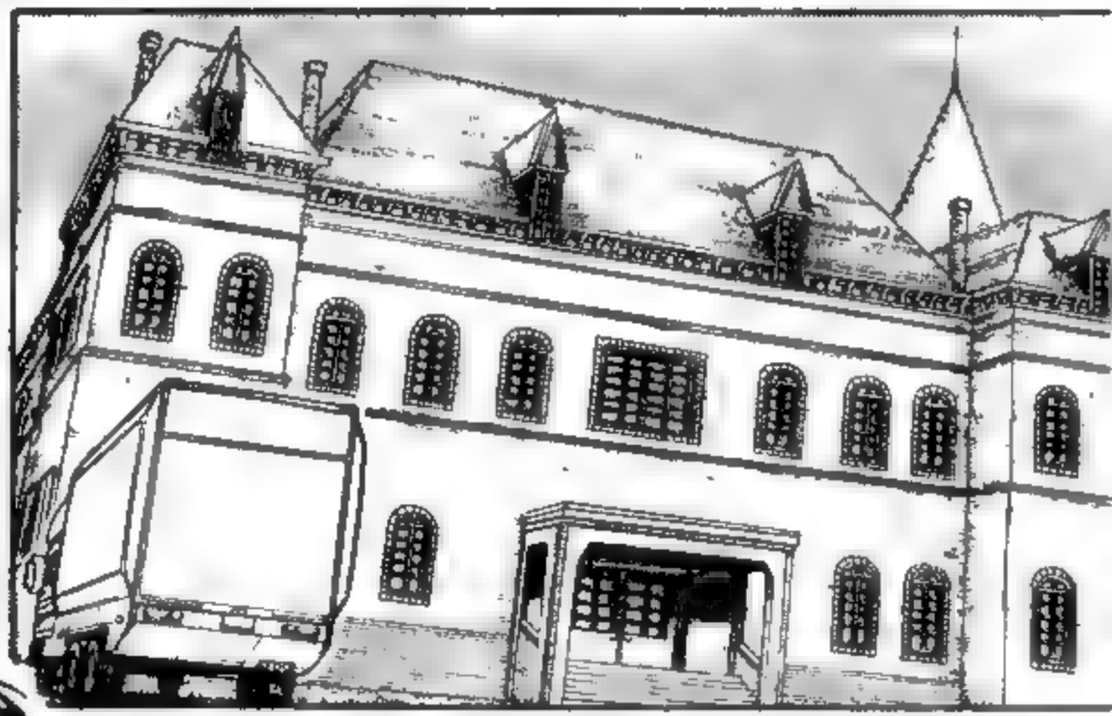
BUT DON'T WORRY ... I HAVE A PLAN !

THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF SAIGA ENTERPRISES MADE ALL THE TRAPS . .
THEY'RE THERE TO KEEP US FROM GETTING IN

WE JUST WAIT FOR THEM ..
FHHH

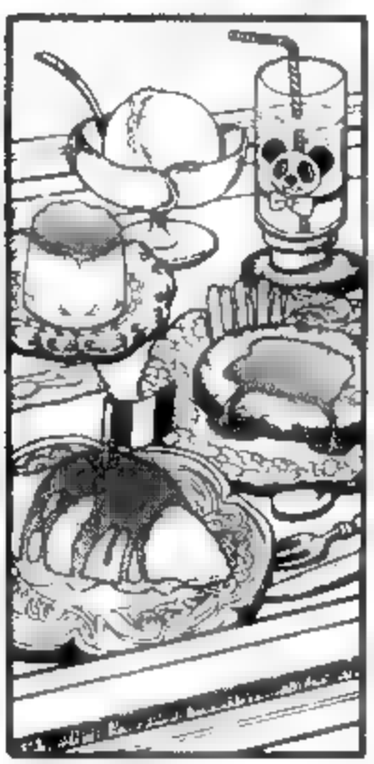
EH?
I THINK OTHERS WILL COME SOON ...
THEY'LL TRY TO GET IN ..





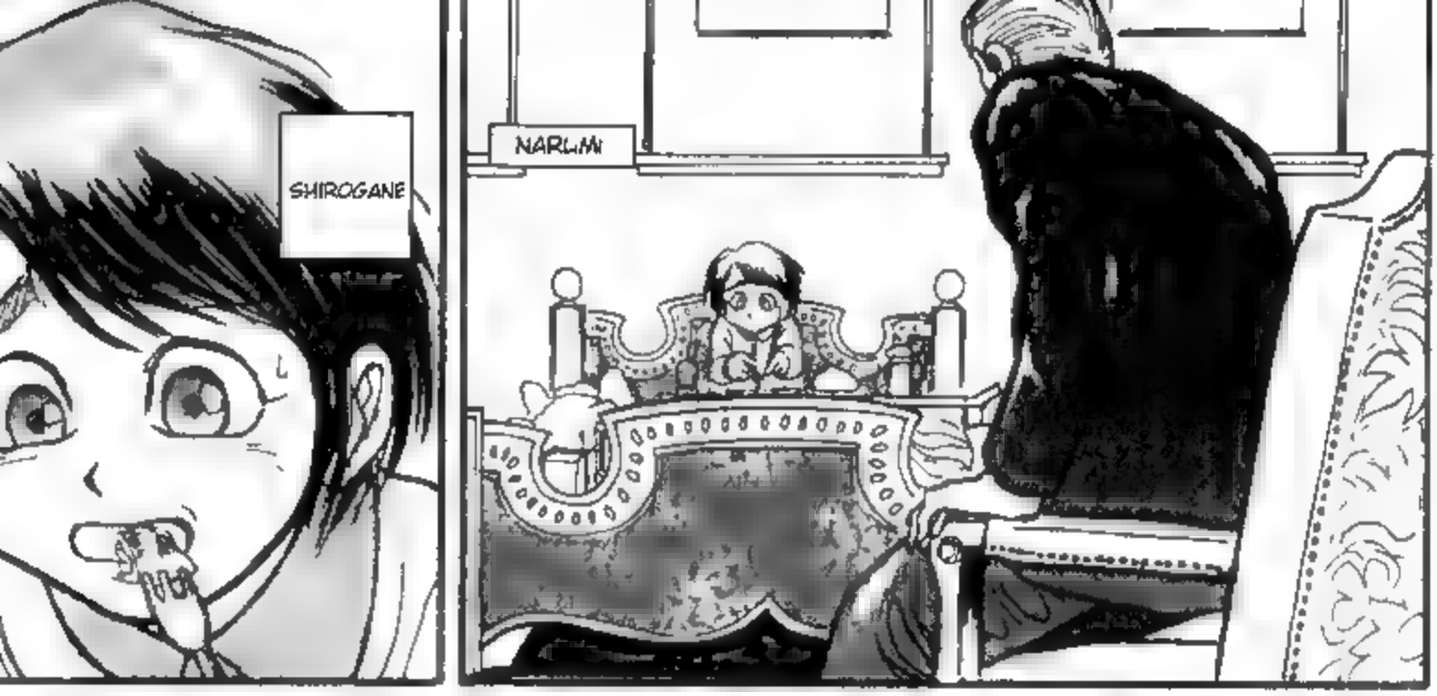
12

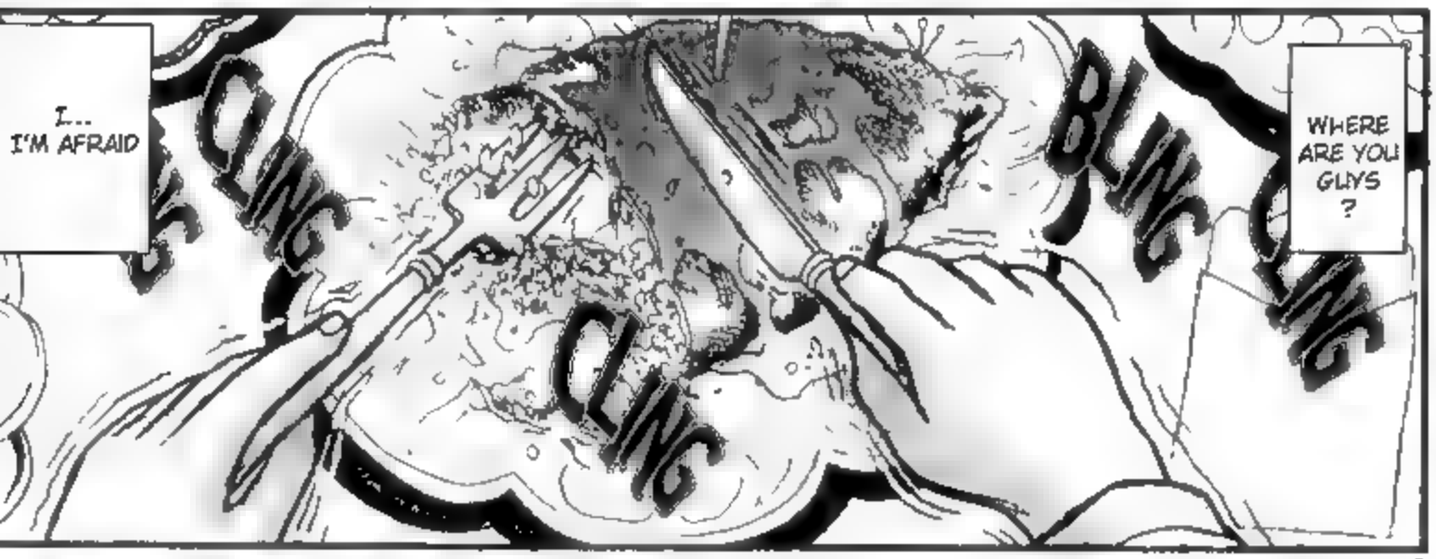
EH... YES ..
BON APPETITE, MASTER ..
SAH



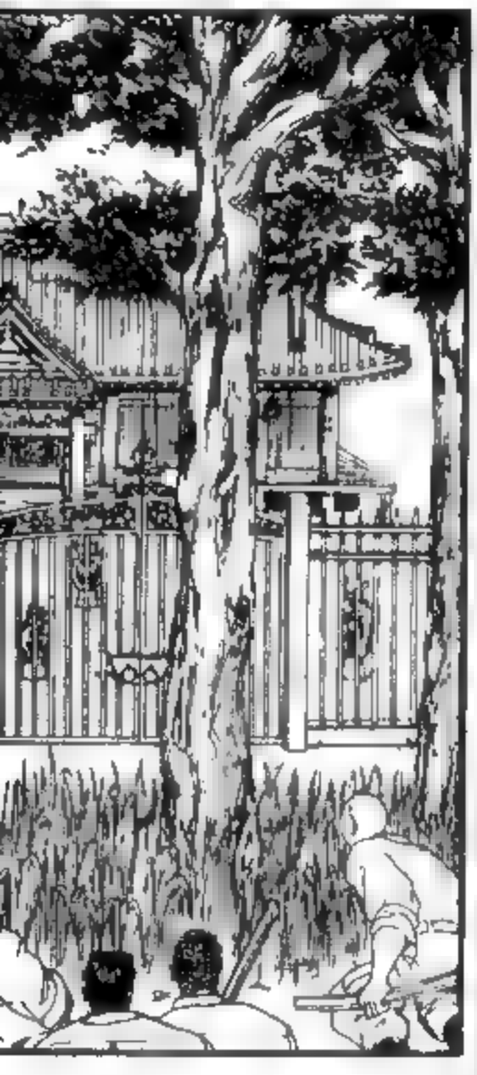
A HUGE PUPPET CAPTURED ME
.
..
THEN, IT WENT INTO A TRUCK AND I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE
EXCUSE ME
..
I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND
...
...
...
...
AH! IT'S NORMAL
..
YOU'RE YOUNG AND YOU WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TERRIBLE THINGS
13
BAD PEOPLE
?
YES. . THEY ALL WANTED YOUR MONEY
!
BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET YOU OUT OF THE CLAWS OF ALL THOSE BAD PEOPLE, MASARU.
IT'S TRUE, WE TOUGHED YOU UP A BIT.

BUT I KNOW THEM !
I KNOW WHAT ALL THOSE MEAN PEOPLE THINK OF YOU!
REALLY ?
THEY WOULD'VE ACTED LIKE YOUR FRIENDS, TELLING YOU BEAUTIFUL STORIES .
... MY UNCLE ?
AH AH AH! IT'S NORMAL THAT YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME ... WE ONLY MET DURING YEAR-END PARTIES
YOUR UNCLE ZENJI WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU, SO NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN TO YOU.
HE ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE DIES
.. I SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOU AND ALL YOUR AFFAIRS .
MY NAME IS ZENJI SAIGA
I'M YOUR FATHER'S YOUNGER BROTHER.
YEAH ... ALRIGHT ..
COME ON EAT AND REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH


SHIROGANE
NARUMI


I...
I'M AFRAID
CLING
CLING
CLING
BLING
BLING
WHERE ARE YOU GUYS ?

15



OF THIS MAN !

DO THEY PLAN TO DESTROY THOSE BARS ?

THERE ARE A HUGE NUMBER OF GUARDS READY TO KILL THEM THE MOMENT THEY SHOW UP ...

I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO KNOW HOW THOSE TWO WILL GO ABOUT .

... GETTING INTO THE BUILDINGS

VRROOM

?!

COME ON! SHOW ME HOW YOU WILL ENTER THIS FORTRESS !!

UNLESS THEY GO THROUGH THE SEWERS .

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I HOPE THEY WILL MAKE A LOT OF NOISE.

VROOM

BOSS! A MOTOR-CYCLE IS COMING !!

THAT WAY, WHEN THEY ATTRACT THE GUARDS' ATTENTION, WE COULD ENTER MORE DISCREETLY

THEY WON'T ACTUALLY TRY TO GO THROUGH BY FORCE ?!!

WHAT?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE !!

IRRAOUM

I'M GONNA DRAW ALL OUR ENEMIES MY WAY WHILE YOU SNEAK IN TO GET MASARU !!

NO, THINGS CAN'T GET ANY WORSE THAN THEY ALREADY ARE

WAIT NARUMI, IT'S TOO RISKY !

NARUMI, YOU KNOW THEY'RE READY TO KILL US !!

IRRR

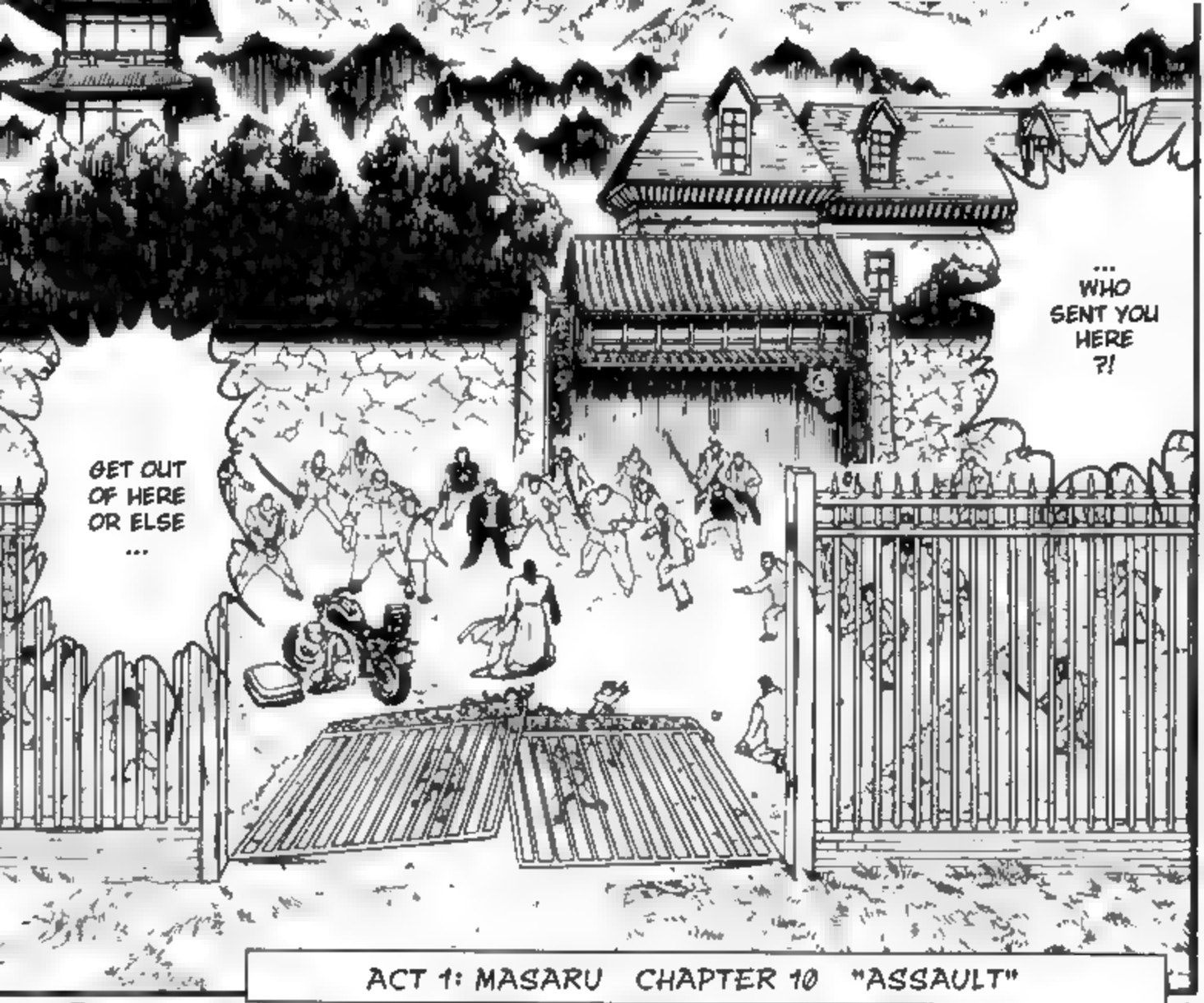
STRANGE
THE CLOSER WE GET TO THIS PLACE, THE BRAVER NARUMI BECOMES!
DON'T THEY SAY THAT "IN EXTREME SITUATIONS, THE SOLDIERS FEAR NOTHING"? THAT IS THE CASE RIGHT NOW
..
I'M READY TO DIE, THIS STATE OF MIND WILL ALLOW ME TO SURVIVE
..

VRRR
ROOM
THIS IS A PRIVATE PROPERTY, WE SHOOT ON SITE!
HEEY!
HEY! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU PEOPLE ?

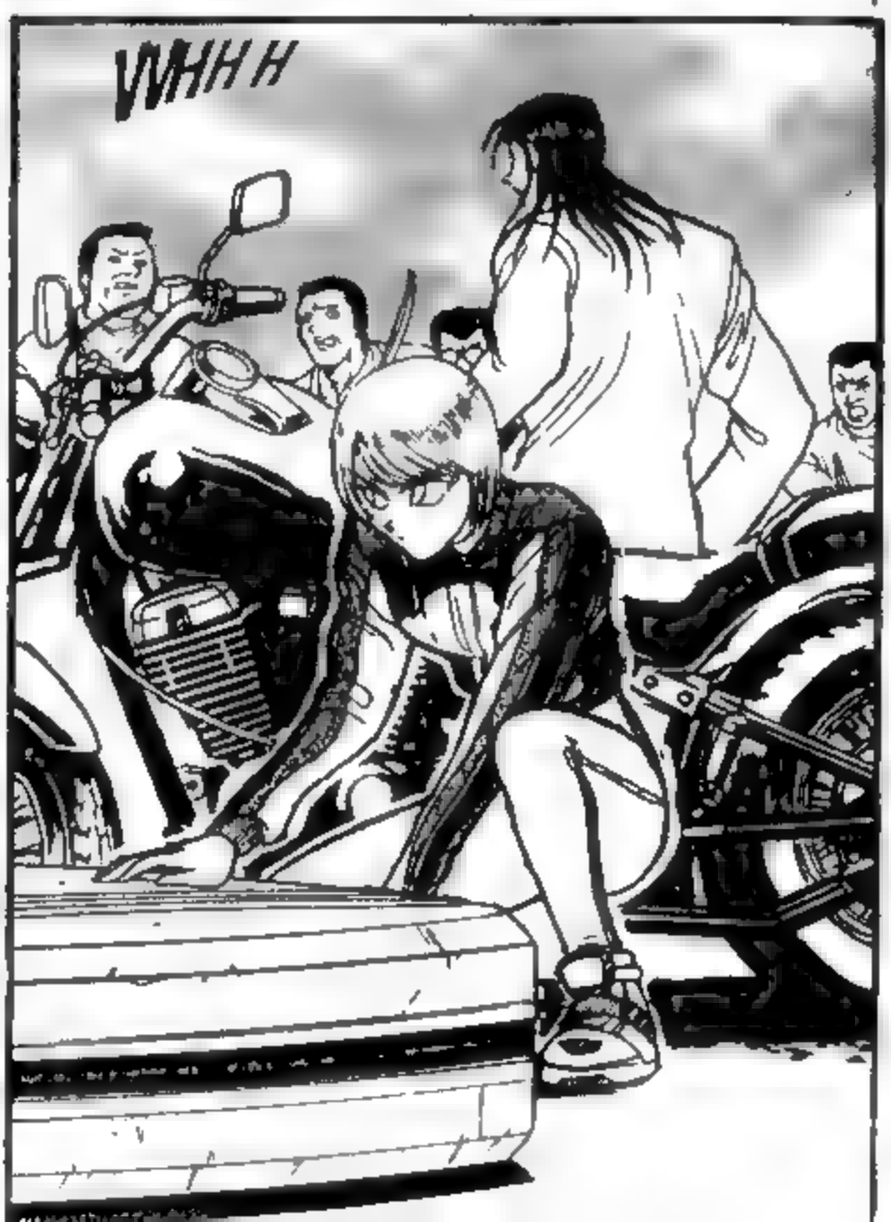
LET'S GO!
OHH
BUT THIS IS SUICIDE

19
WE'RE GONNA KILL YOU, BASTARDS!
BAM
BANG

WELL ... WHO'S NEXT ?



ACT 1: MASARU CHAPTER 10 "ASSAULT"



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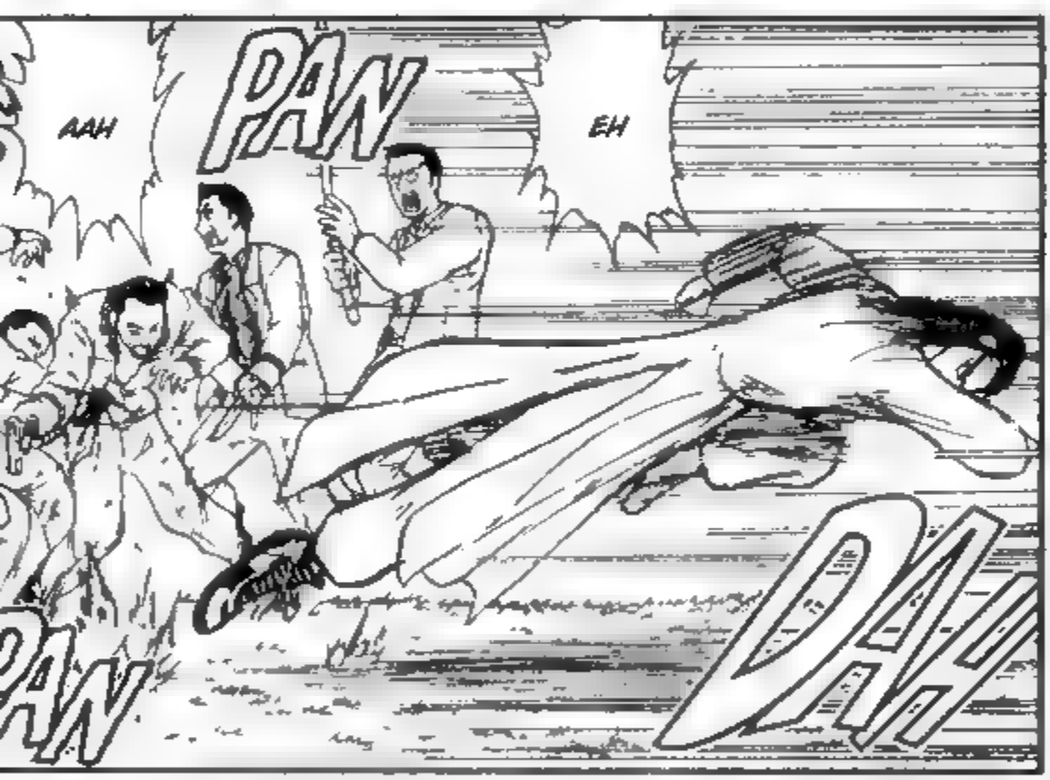
ACT 1: MASARU

CHAPTER 10 "ASSAULT"

...
AND I WILL SEND YOU ALL BACK TO THE DOGHOUSE !!
BRAM
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT DOGS
GOOH
DAH
ZZOM

SO MANY PEOPLE TO GUARD A SINGLE KID ?!
BAAA

SCHLAC
CLAC
SHOOT HIM NOW!
SHIT!


AAH
PAN
EH
PAN
DAH

5

PAN
PAN

NOOOO!
DIMWITS, YOU GOT GUNS BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO USE THEM.
DAH

I'LL GET HIM
GET OUT OF THE WAY
VOMM
VOMM
STOP! DON'T SHOOT!

PAN
PAN
PAN
PAN
AH
GO OF

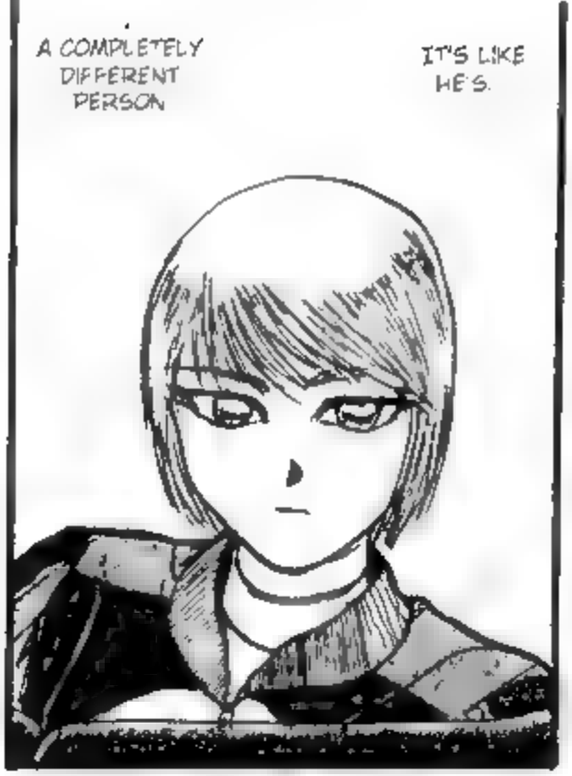
FLAP

6

WHY AREN'T YOU AFRAID ?
NOBODY WANTS TO DIE, THIS CAN'T BE!
WE ALL HAVE BATS, SWORDS AND GUNS

WHERE DO YOU COME FROM ?!
THIS CAN'T BE ...

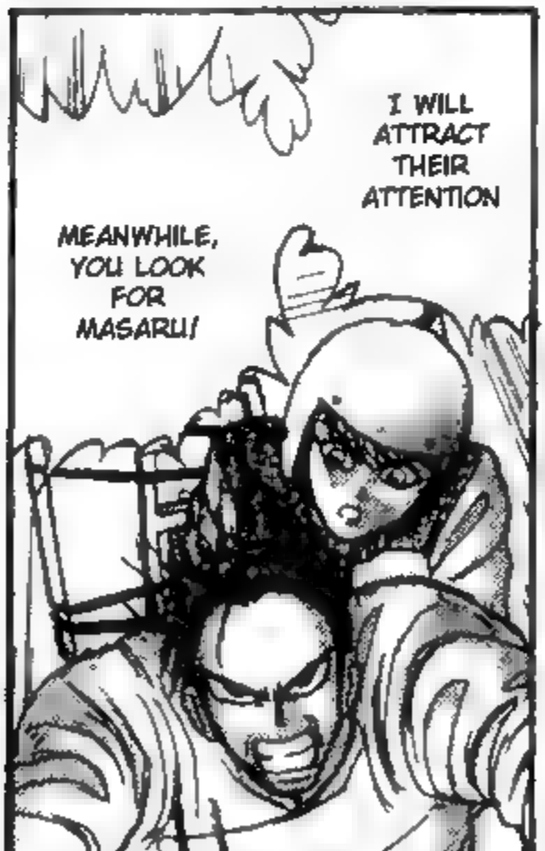
BANG
"HE WHO ACCEPTS DEATH LEARNS THE TRUE VALUE OF LIFE"
IT'S WHEN WE'RE DETERMINED TO GO ALL THE WAY THAT WE HAVE A CHANCE TO SURVIVE ...
OOOOHH

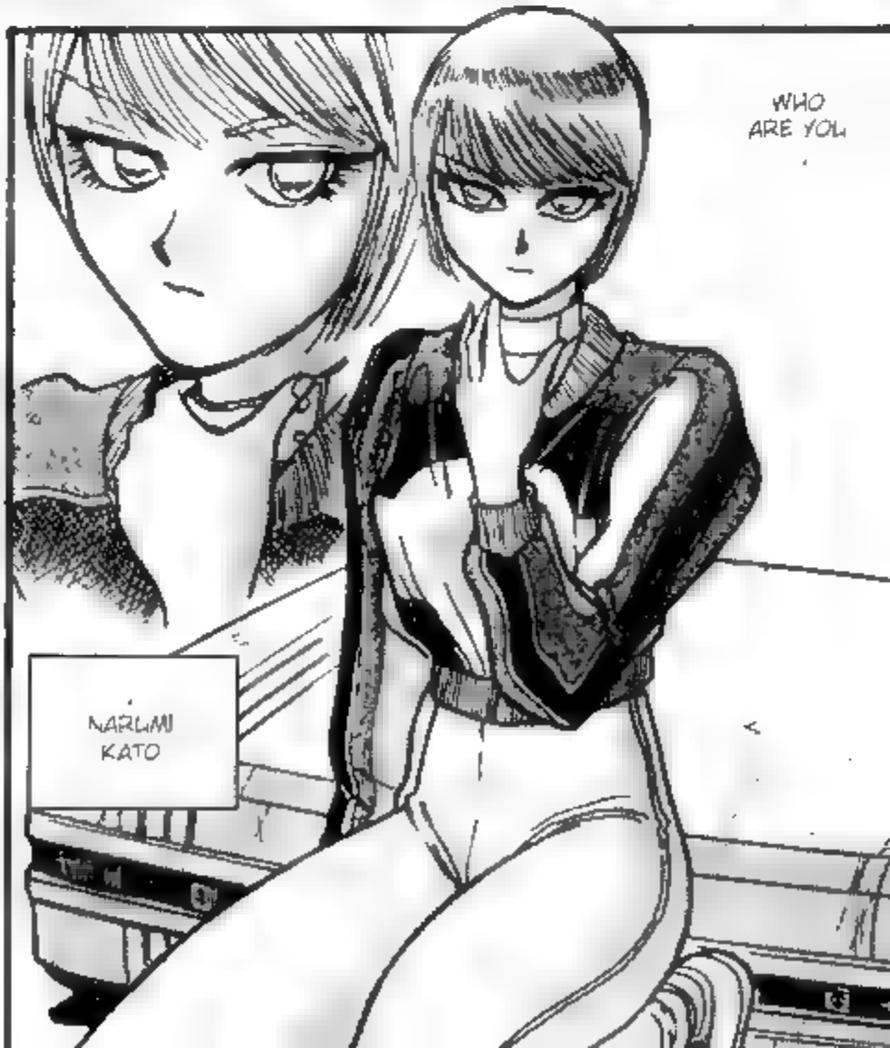

A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON
IT'S LIKE HE'S

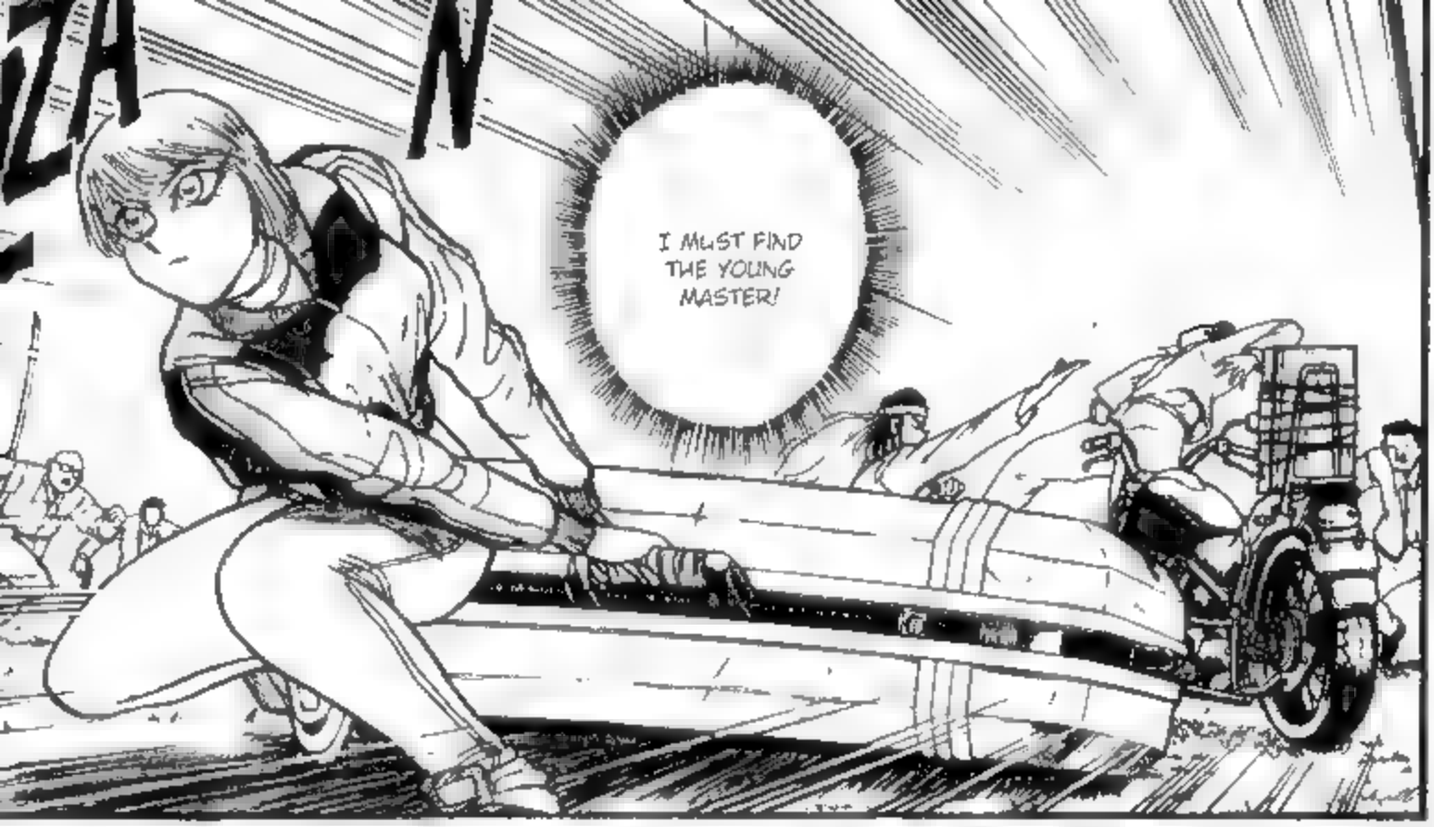
YA A A AHH

DURING A SPORTS COMPETITION
HERE, I WAS PUNISHED BECAUSE I REFUSED TO DRINK THE CAFETERIA MILK

IDIOT!
AH... BUT I MEAN
SBO

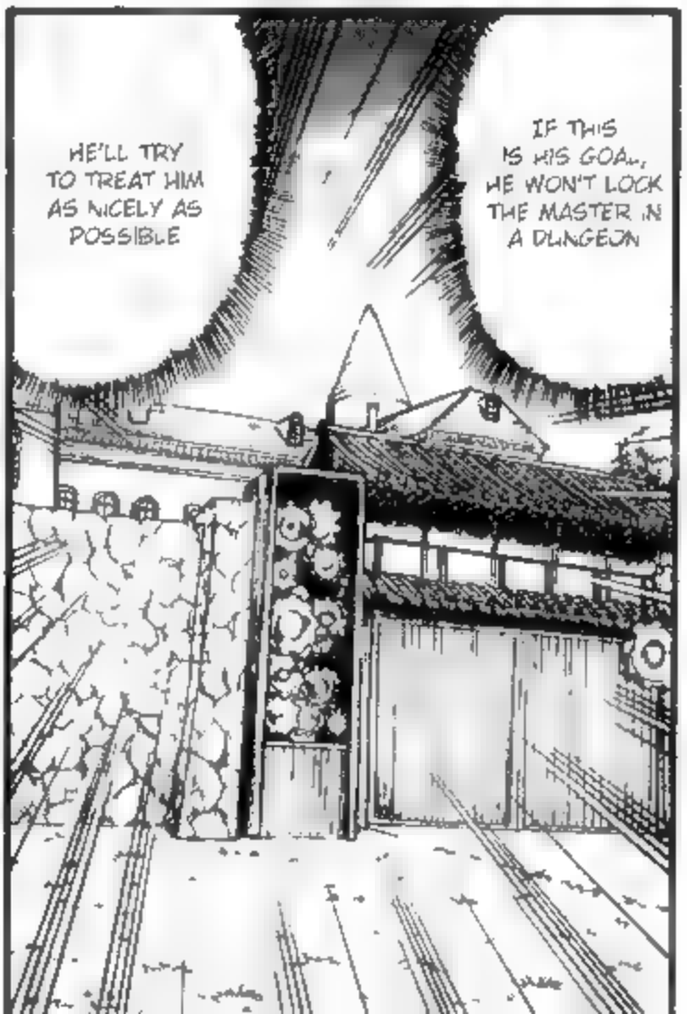

I WILL ATTRACT THEIR ATTENTION
MEANWHILE, YOU LOOK FOR MASARU!


WHO ARE YOU
NARUMI KATO


I MUST FIND THE YOUNG MASTER!

TO FORCIBLY ADOPT HIM TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE MASTER'S IMMENSE FORTUNE!
OUR ENEMY KIDNAPPED HIM..

IN THAT BUILDING!


HE'LL TRY TO TREAT HIM AS NICELY AS POSSIBLE
IF THIS IS HIS GOAL, HE WON'T LOCK THE MASTER IN A DUNGEON

I HOPE SHE'LL FIND MASARU QUICKLY
GOOD ...

HE HE HE!

WE'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION TO GET INTO THE SAIGA RESIDENCE, AND RECLAIM MASARU.
I THINK IT'S OUR LUCKY DAY, GUYS.

NUTS ..
... THAT GUY IS REALLY INSANE!

VICTORY IS OURS!
"ASSASSINS CLAN", LET'S GO!

AAAHHH
WHAT ?!

DAN

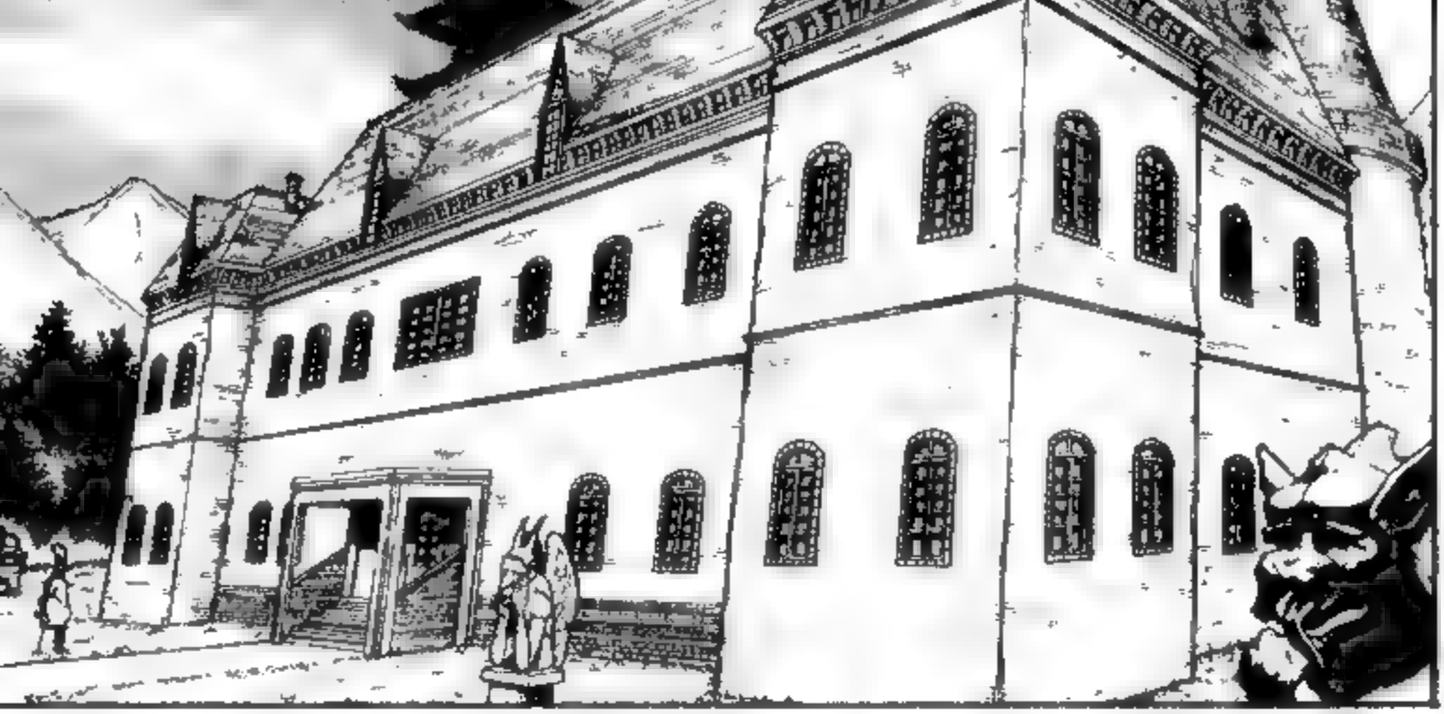
THE ASSASSINS CLAN! THEY ENTERED THE ESTATE!

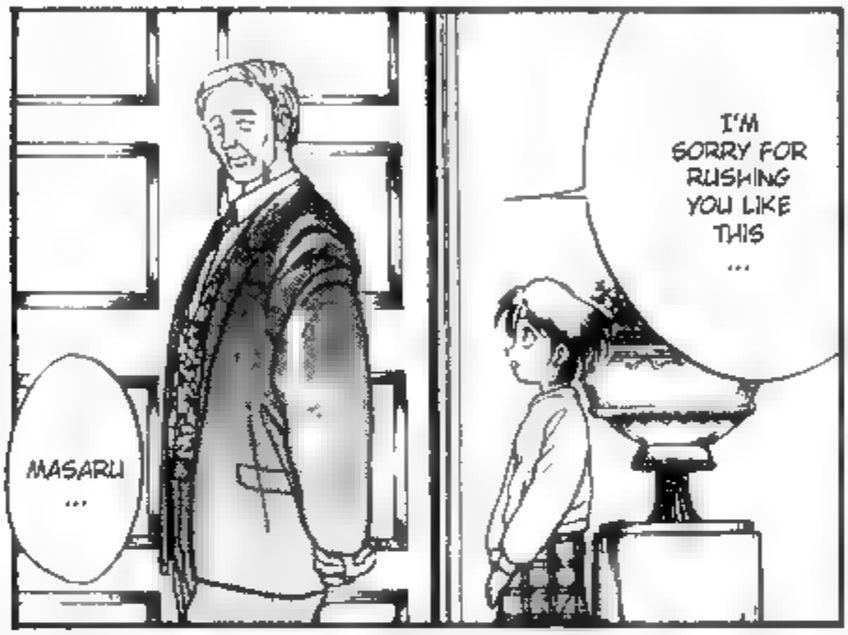
...IT'S ASHIHANA!
AH ...

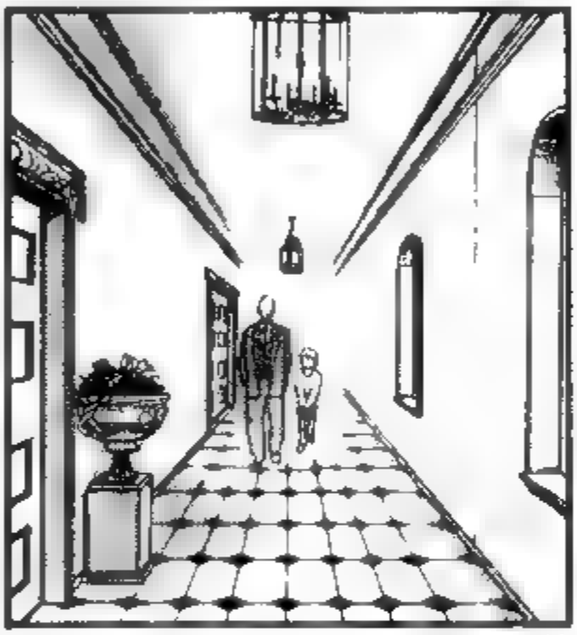
YES, IT'S HIM ALL RIGHT.
ASHIHANA ?!
TAN TAN TAN TAN TAN
LET'S GO!

12

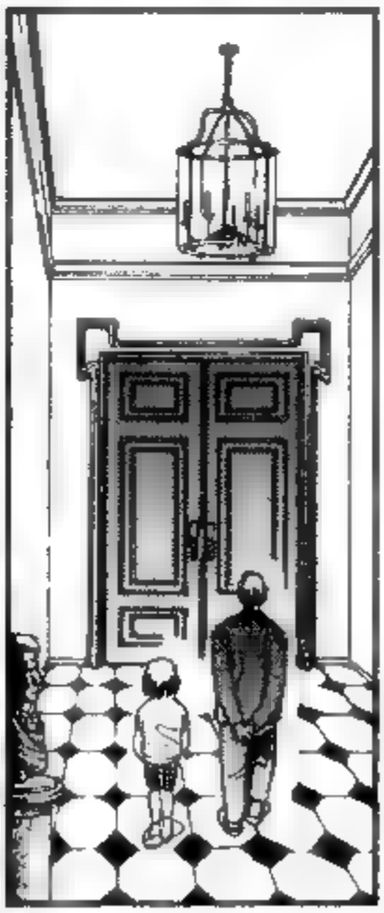
SINCE THEY MAKE EVEN MORE NOISE THAN US I WILL USE THIS CHANCE TO LOOK FOR MASARU AS WELL
DAH
WELL
THE BASTARD! HE LET US COME IN FIRST TO CREATE A DIVERSION




MASARU
...
I'M SORRY FOR RUSHING YOU LIKE THIS
...



AND I WILL PROVE IT TO YOU
I TOLD YOU THAT YOUR FATHER WANTED ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU
...



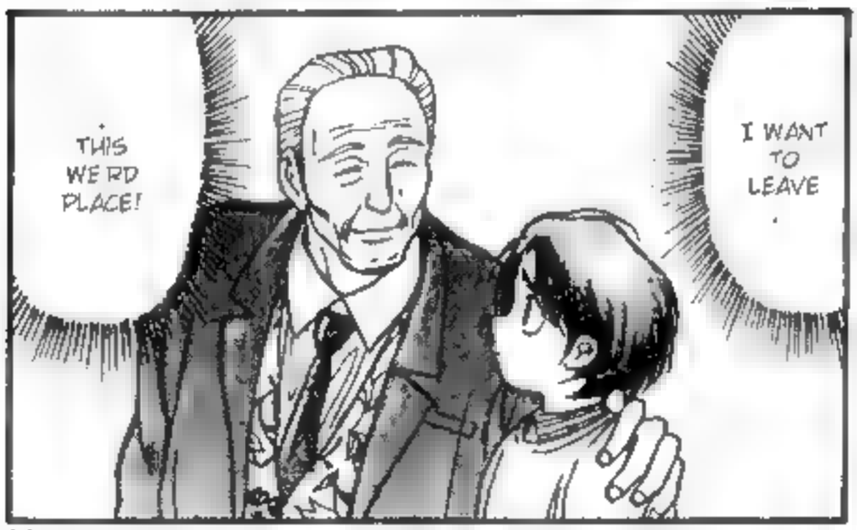
... TO SHOW ME ?
UNCLE ZENJI
.. WHAT DID YOU WANT ...

COME ON, DON'T BE AFRAID.
WHAT'S WRONG ?

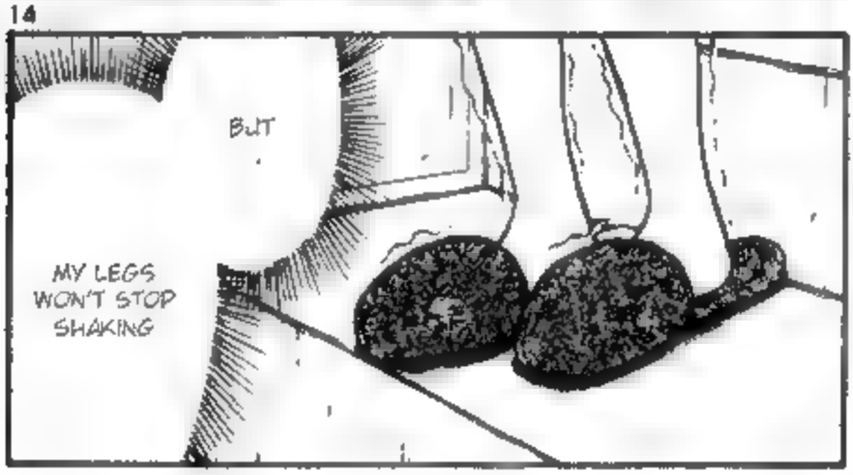
PLEASE COME IN.

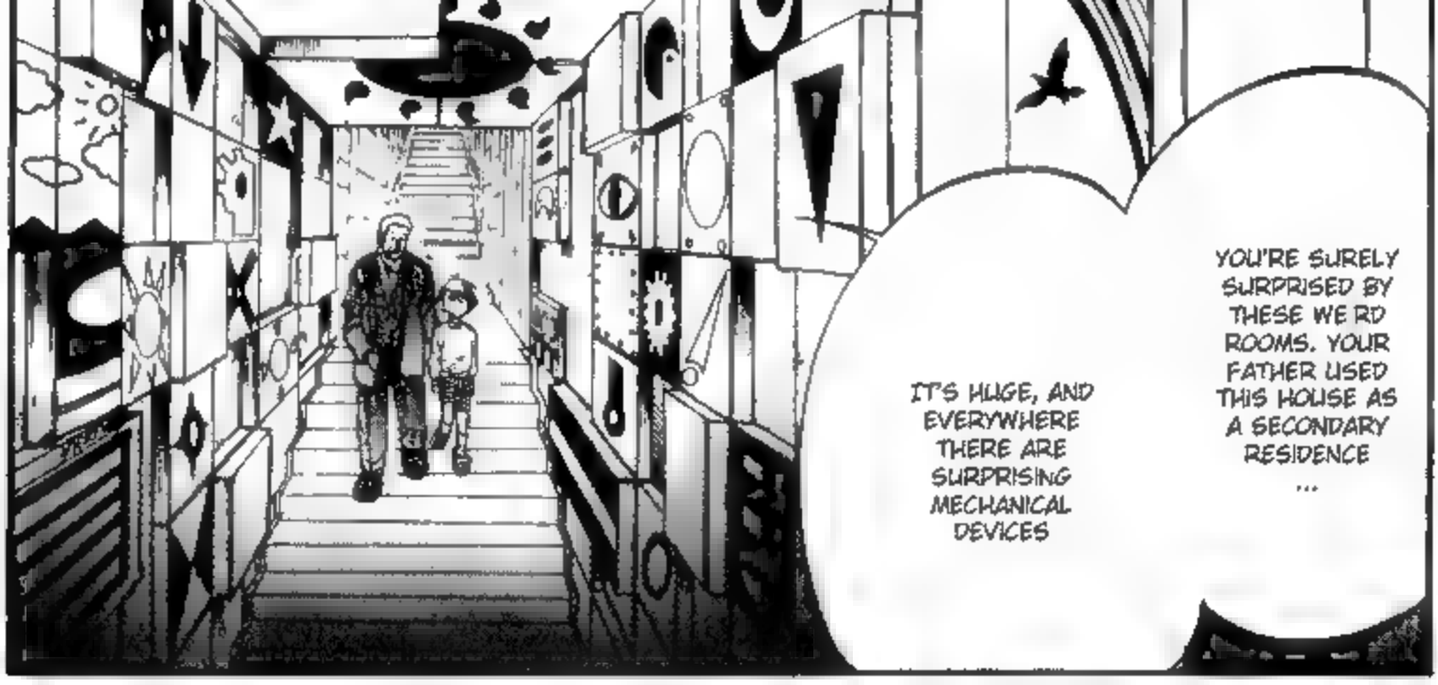
THIS MAN IS LYING

COME ...

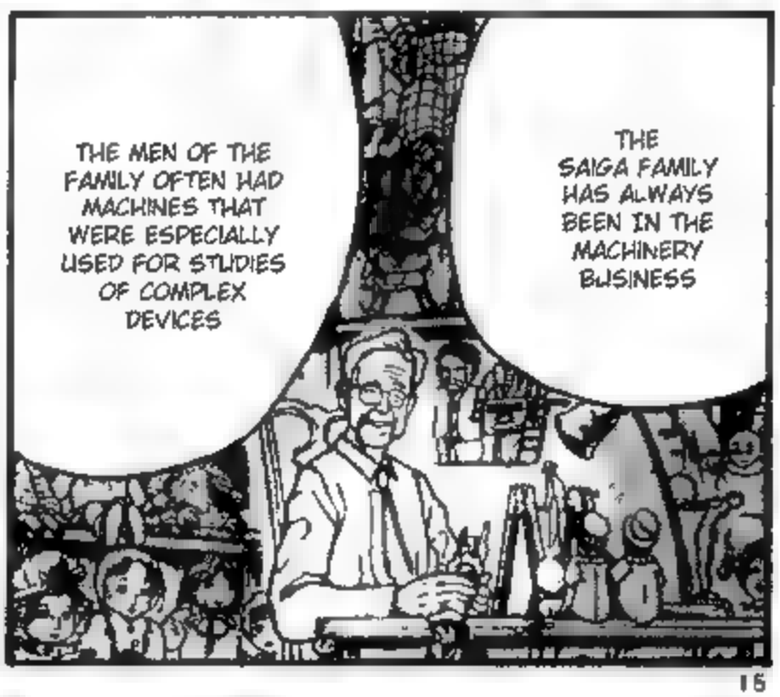

THIS WE RD PLACE!
I WANT TO LEAVE

HE SAID THAT NARUMI AND SHIROGANE WERE BAD GUYS

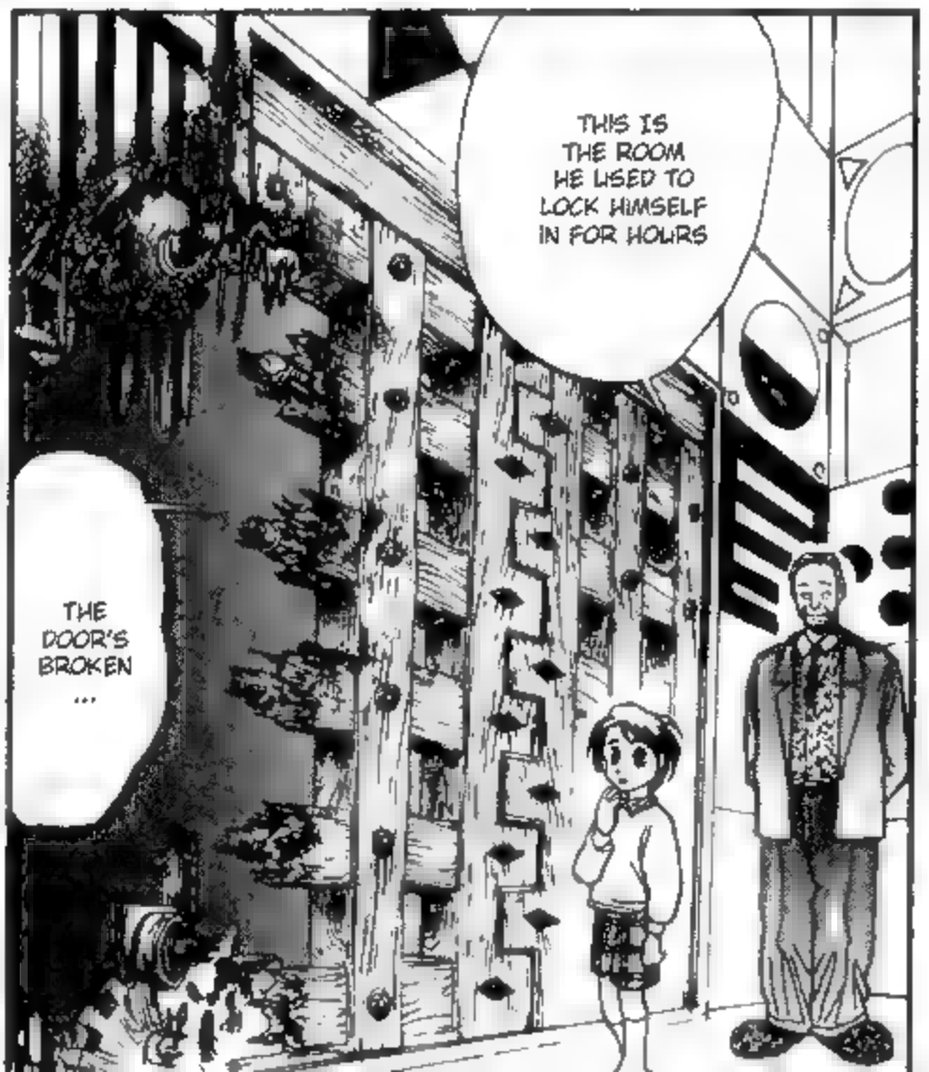

BUT
MY LEGS WON'T STOP SHAKING

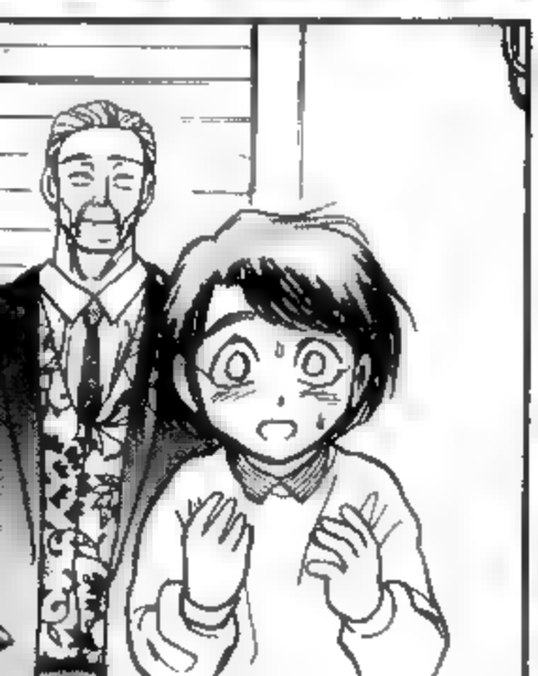

YOU'RE SURELY SURPRISED BY THESE WE RD ROOMS. YOUR FATHER USED THIS HOUSE AS A SECONDARY RESIDENCE ...
IT'S HUGE, AND EVERYWHERE THERE ARE SURPRISING MECHANICAL DEVICES

YOUR FATHER, THE FORMER HEAD OF THE SAIGA ENTERPRISE, LOVED THAT A LOT ...


THE SAIGA FAMILY HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE MACHINERY BUSINESS
THE MEN OF THE FAMILY OFTEN HAD MACHINES THAT WERE ESPECIALLY USED FOR STUDIES OF COMPLEX DEVICES

GO AHEAD ... YOU CAN GO IN

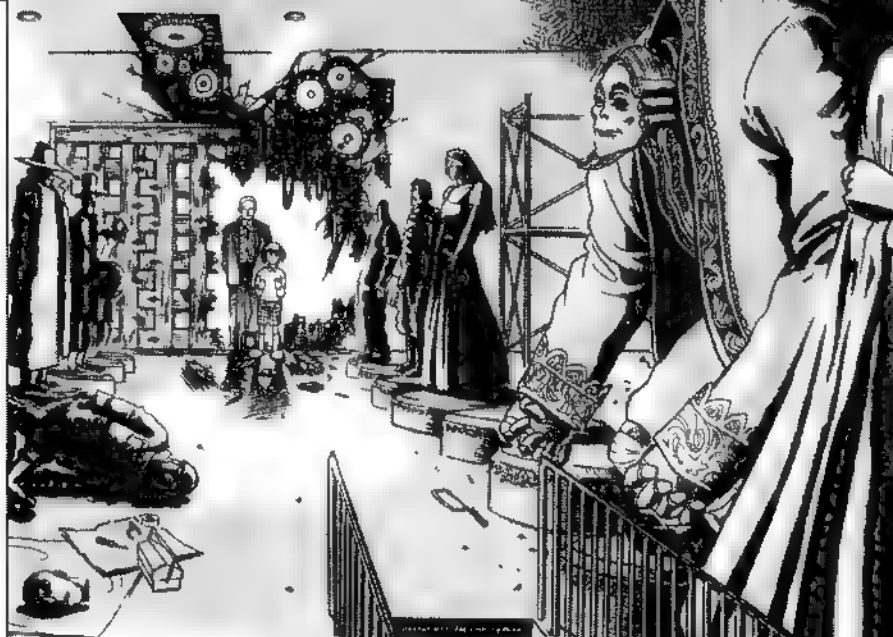

THIS IS THE ROOM HE USED TO LOCK HIMSELF IN FOR HOURS
THE DOOR'S BROKEN ...



17

THEY'RE FULL OF WIRES
EXACTLY LIKE SHIROGANE'S PUPPET!

YOUR FATHER WAS REALLY INTO THEIR MECHANISMS
IN JAPAN, WE CALL THIS KIND OF PUPPETS "KENSHI-KUGUTSU"



IN HERE, YOUR FATHER RELENTLESSLY STUDIED MECHANICAL PUPPETS

16

NOBODY IN THE FAMILY HAD SUCH A BIG ROOM

WHAT ARE THEY FOR ?
THERE ARE SO MANY PUPPETS

...
HOW TO CREATE PUPPETS THAT AMPLIFY THE SPEED AND POWER OF PEOPLE?

AND ALSO ...

HOW TO TRANSMIT THE HUMAN MOVEMENTS TO A MACHINE ?

... AND NOBODY KNEW WHY

BUT YOUR FATHER, HE LOVED STUDYING THE MECHANISM OF "WIRE PUPPETS" ...

PEOPLE PREFER PUPPETS THAT FUNCTION ON THEIR OWN WITH SPRINGS

MOST OF THE TIME ...

... MY FATHER LOVED "WIRE PUPPETS"

I BELIEVE THIS IS WHY ...

AH REALLY ?

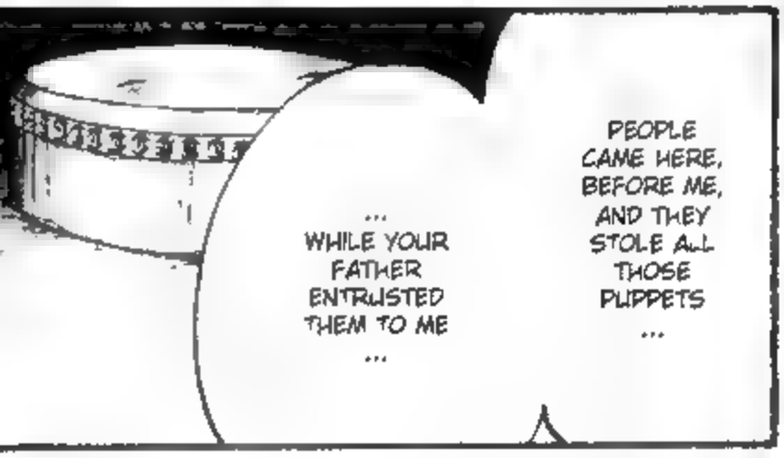
ONE DAY, MY GRANDFATHER TOLD ME WHY ...

... THE MORE WE WANT TO FEEL THE HUMAN WARMTH

THE MORE TECHNOLOGIES, WE PERFECT ...

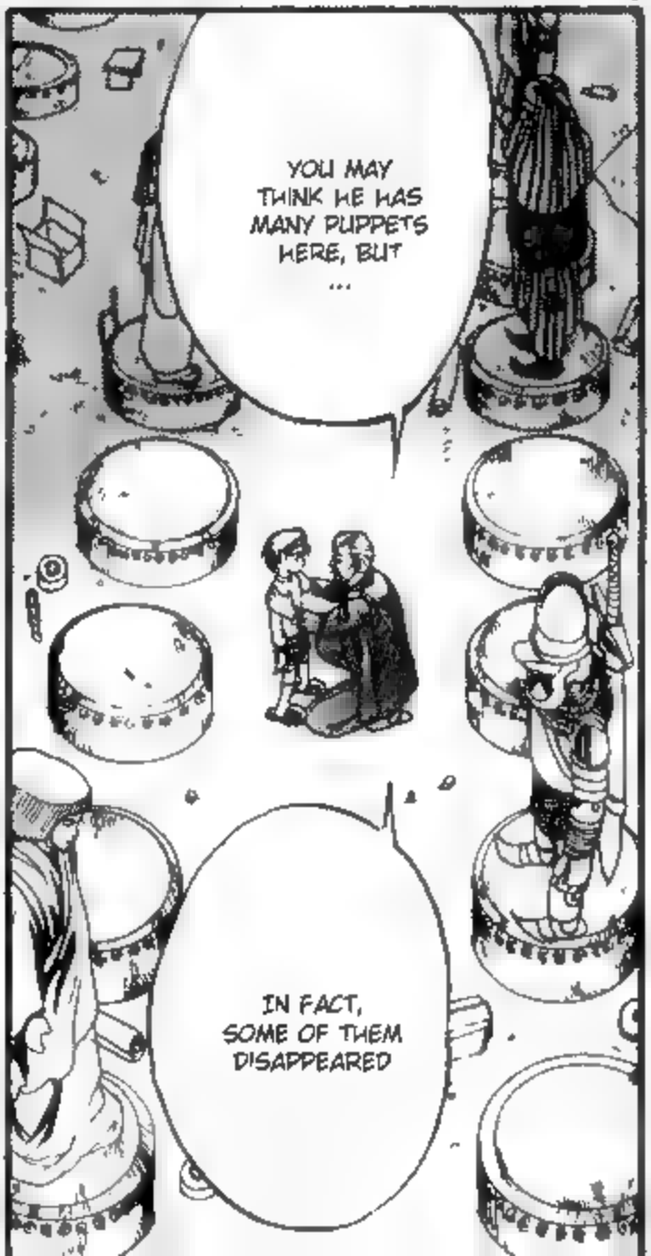
YOU KNOW, BECAUSE OF THIS PASSION, MANY PEOPLE MOCKED YOUR FATHER
YOU'RE A SMART BOY
IT'S POSSIBLE ...
POF

THOSE SAME PEOPLE BROKE THAT DOOR DOWN, OVER THERE


... WHILE YOUR FATHER ENTRUSTED THEM TO ME ...
PEOPLE CAME HERE, BEFORE ME, AND THEY STOLE ALL THOSE PUPPETS ...

... YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS !
THEY ARE ...

WHO ARE THEY?


YOU MAY THINK HE HAS MANY PUPPETS HERE, BUT ...
IN FACT, SOME OF THEM DISAPPEARED

THE MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY ARE JEALOUS AND THEY WANT TO KILL YOU ..
YOUR FATHER LEFT YOU ALL HIS FORTUNE
WHY ..
BUT ..

BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL PROTECT YOU
.. BY USING YOUR FATHER'S PUPPETS!
IT'S A WAY OF GETTING BACK AT HIM.

.. I WANT YOU TO BECOME MY SON.
THAT'S WHY ..

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Edited by vensu
Checked by Spl

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ACT 1: MASARU : CHAPTER 11 "THE MECHANICAL DOOR/HELL"

YA AAHH HA HA

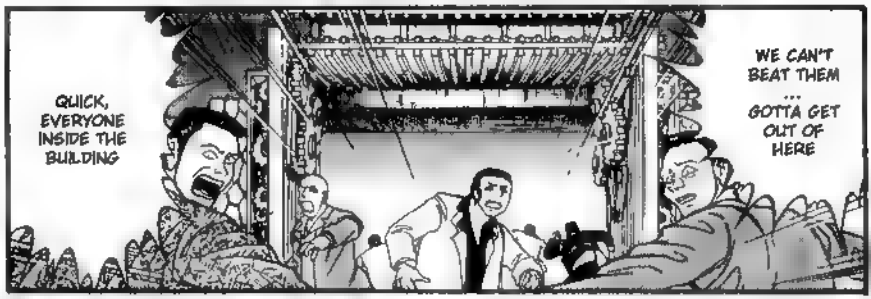
AAA A HH

3

IITK

BLAM

SBI
ZING
THANKS TO MY PUPPET, "ROLLING ARMS" I'LL REDUCE YOU ALL TO MEAT DOUGH
HA HA HA! YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY? APPARENTLY THE "ABDUCTORS" ARE ALL COWARDS !!


QUICK, EVERYONE INSIDE THE BUILDING
WE CAN'T BEAT THEM ... GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE

2

YAAHH
OUAA

BOM
BOM
BOM
BLAM
OPEN, YOU COWARDS!
THEY'RE IN THERE
TAN TAN TAN

YAAHH
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR MASARU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ?

4

SHIT !!
SO, WHY ARE YOU ...
ASHIHANA'S GUYS ARE ON THE OFFENSIVE
YOU SHOULD BE INSIDE WHILE WE CREATE A DIVERSION

SCHLAC
CLAC
VRRLOM
HUH ?!
GET DOWN !
!
BAH BAH BAH BAH BAH
BAHH
AAH
5

TRAPS!

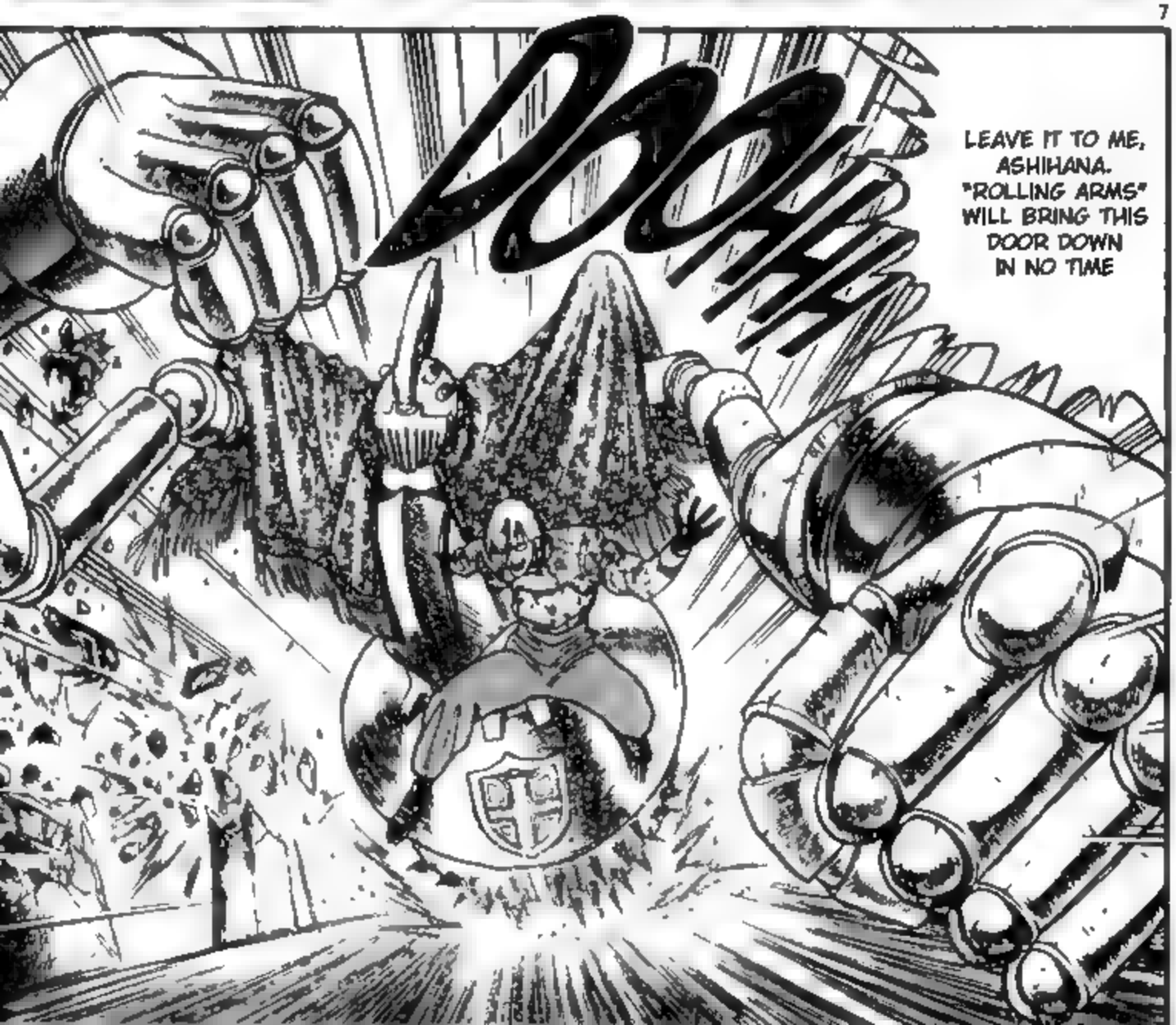
WHAT IS THAT ?!

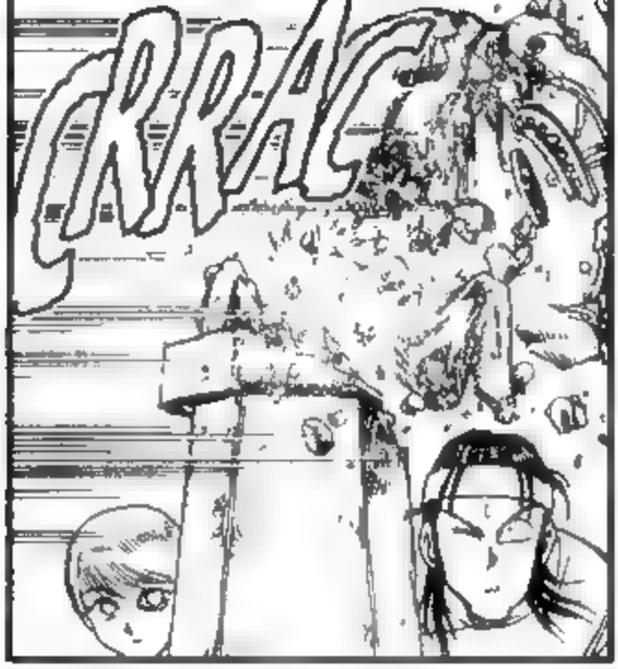
BOM
AH AH AH AAAH !

SEEMS LIKE YOU DIDN'T SEE THIS COMING ... RIGHT ?
ASHIHANA

HELLO TAKAMI
I SEE THAT YOU HAVE "THEOGAULTIER" WITH YOU. A VERY POWERFUL PUPPET
WHICH PROVES THAT MASARU IS KEPT BEHIND THIS DOOR
IT'S OBVIOUS THERE WOULD BE THIS SORT OF TRAPS EVERY-WHERE!
DID YOU FORGET? THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SAIGA RESIDENCES

GRRRR
BLAM!!


LEAVE IT TO ME, ASHIHANA. "ROLLING ARMS" WILL BRING THIS DOOR DOWN IN NO TIME


GRRAG

FRAGMENT

NO. .
PLOC
I THINK HE'LL EASILY DESTROY THAT DOOR ...
YEAH ... THAT THING IS VERY [redacted] INDEED

SHE BECAME COLD AND DISTANT THE MOMENT SHE SAW THAT BIG PUPPET
... WHEN MASARU ISN'T AROUND, SHE BECOMES A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
... HE WON'T MAKE IT

CRRAK
MORON
SCH
HUH
!!
9
BZZ
ZAAP

BZZ
HAW

ROLLING ARMS!
...
NO!

RRRATATATATA

HE'S STUCK

THE WIRES !
AAH
BZÖÏÑG
I CAN'T TAKE OFF MY GLOVES !!
DADA-DADA
!
HELP! HELP!
I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING!
SHIT!
SLAH

THEIR GOAL IS TO KILL THE YOUNG MASTER

WHY? BUT ...

WHY WOULD YOU HELP HIM?

IF HE DIES, WE'LL HAVE ONE LESS ENEMY TO FIGHT

THE "ABDUCTORS" AND THE "ASSASSINS" ARE BOTH AFTER THE SAME THING

DAMN!

DAF

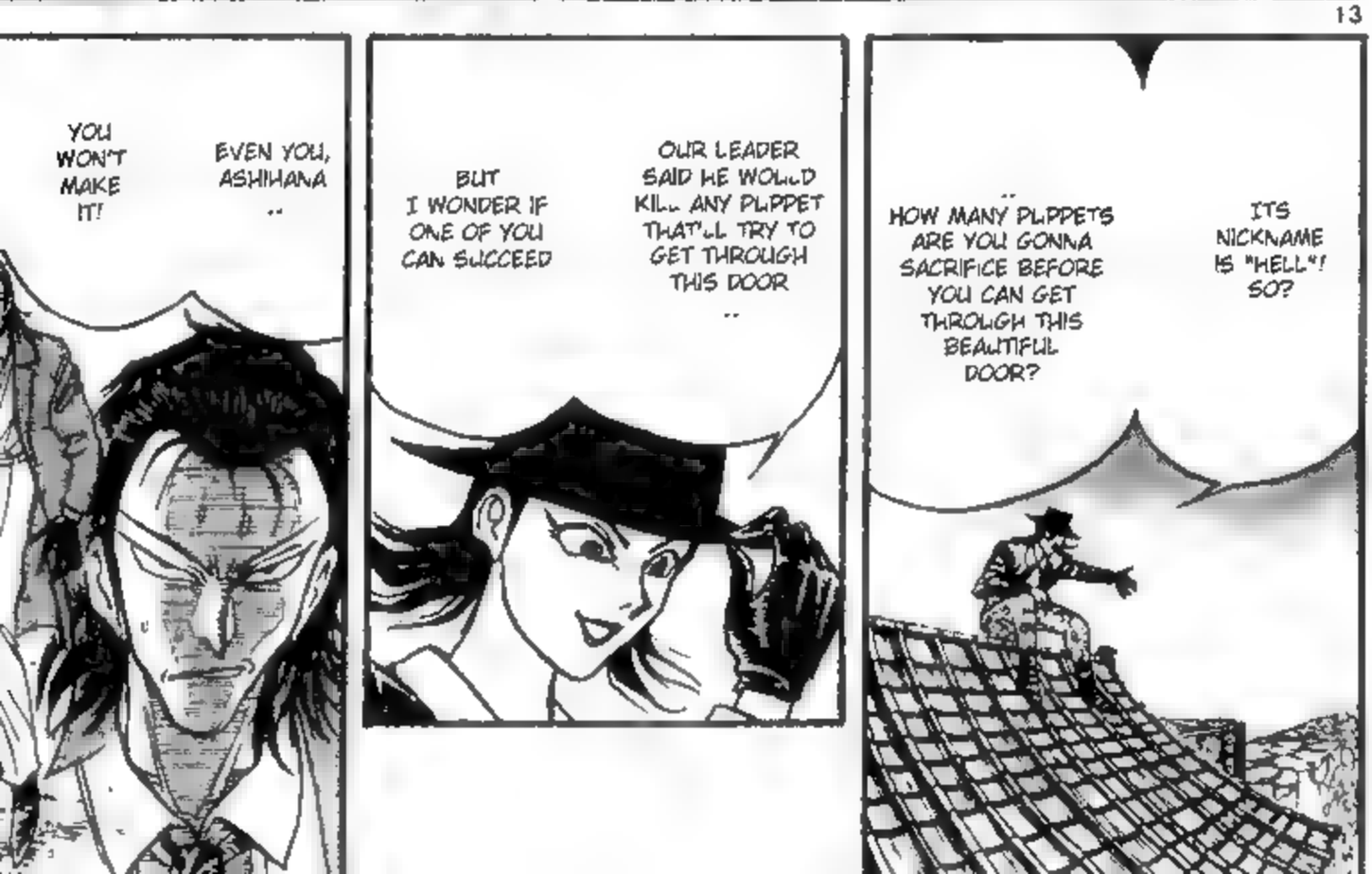
AAAHHHH

GRRR

WHAT AN ICY LOOK

IRRK
AA
AM

BYE BYE, NAKATA. YOU'RE DEAD BECAUSE YOU UNDER-ESTIMATED THIS DOOR.
TOO LATE


YOU WON'T MAKE IT!
EVEN YOU, ASHIHANA ..
BUT I WONDER IF ONE OF YOU CAN SUCCEED
OUR LEADER SAID HE WOULD KILL ANY PUPPET THAT'LL TRY TO GET THROUGH THIS DOOR ..
.. HOW MANY PUPPETS ARE YOU GONNA SACRIFICE BEFORE YOU CAN GET THROUGH THIS BEAUTIFUL DOOR?
ITS NICKNAME IS "HELL"! SO?

HEY. WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
WHO'S THIS GIRL?
IT'S OK.. LET'S SEE HOW SHE HANDLES IT
MISS, YOU'RE WAY TOO ARROGANT
I WILL SUCCEED!

SHIROGANE, WAIT
YOU JUST SAW HOW THAT BIG PUPPET WAS REDUCED TO PIECES ...
... YOU REALLY THINK YOU'LL SUCCEED ?!
I THINK WE'RE GONNA WITNESS
A VERY INTERESTING SCENE
15
I... EXIST ..
TO PROTECT THE YOUNG MASTER

SO DOES ARLEQUIN!
AND
ZZAAHH

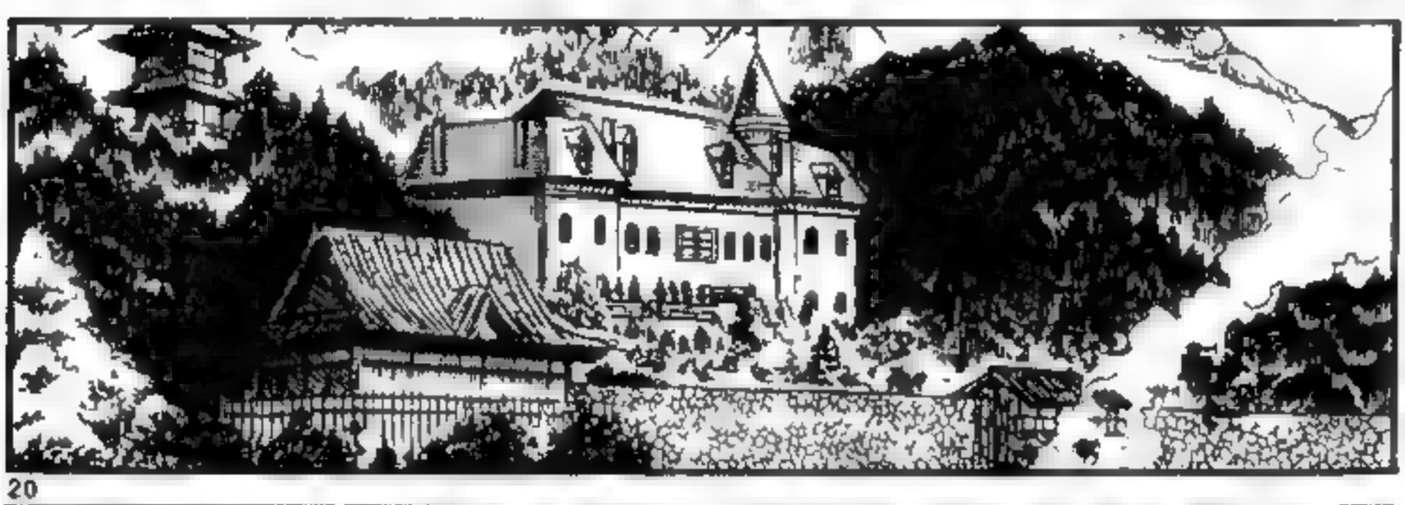
THE ART OF FIGHTING !!
THE ART OF FIGHTING

WHHH
WOW!
...
WHO ARE YOU?!

TOH
SAH
THESE ARE THE BLADES OF SAINT-GEORGE
. .

INCREDIBLE !!
THIS... IS REALLY ..
BLONG

HE HE ..
INTERESTING, ISN'T IT ?



IF YOU BECOME MY SON, I WILL BE ABLE TO BETTER PROTECT YOU
UNDERSTAND, MASARU

I WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THOSE HORRIBLE PUPPETS THAT YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
ARE MAKING EVIL PEOPLE MANIPULATE!
WHY DID HE TE... ME THAT?
BUT ..

.. IF YOU DON'T REFUSE!
FOR YOUR SECURITY, IT'S BETTER ..
I THINK THAT .
BUT . .
GHH

ASHIHANA AND HIS MEN ARE HERE
WHAT IS IT ?
EXCUSE ME
SIR?
WEIRD
THIS MAN IS REALLY

WHAT ?!

I THOLIGHT SO
. .
BUT A BLACK PUPPET CONTROLLED BY A GIRL WE DON'T KNOW
. .
. .
DESTROYED THE DOOR

THE DOOR OF HELL CAN DESTROY ANY PUPPET

EH, THEY CAN ATTACK US ALL THEY WANT, IT'S USELESS
...

KILL THEM RIGHT AWAY, USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY. THEY MUSTN'T GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!

THERE'S A MAN WITH HER
...
HE'S VERY STRONG AND DEFEATED MANY OF OUR MEN

HEY!

...
HE'S THE ONE THAT'S EVIL!

THEN... THIS MAN ORDERING THEIR DEATH

THEY CAME LOOKING FOR ME

AND NARUMI

SHIROGANE

MASARU, WHAT'S WRONG ? COME BACK.

YES, SIR!

NO, THE TWO OF US ARE ENOUGH TO CATCH A SMALL KID LIKE HIM!

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Edited by vensu
Checked by Spl

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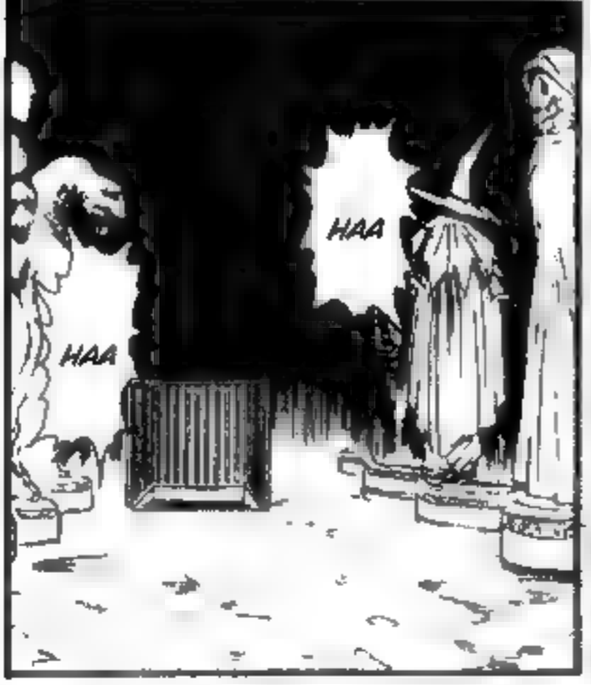
ACT 1: MASARU

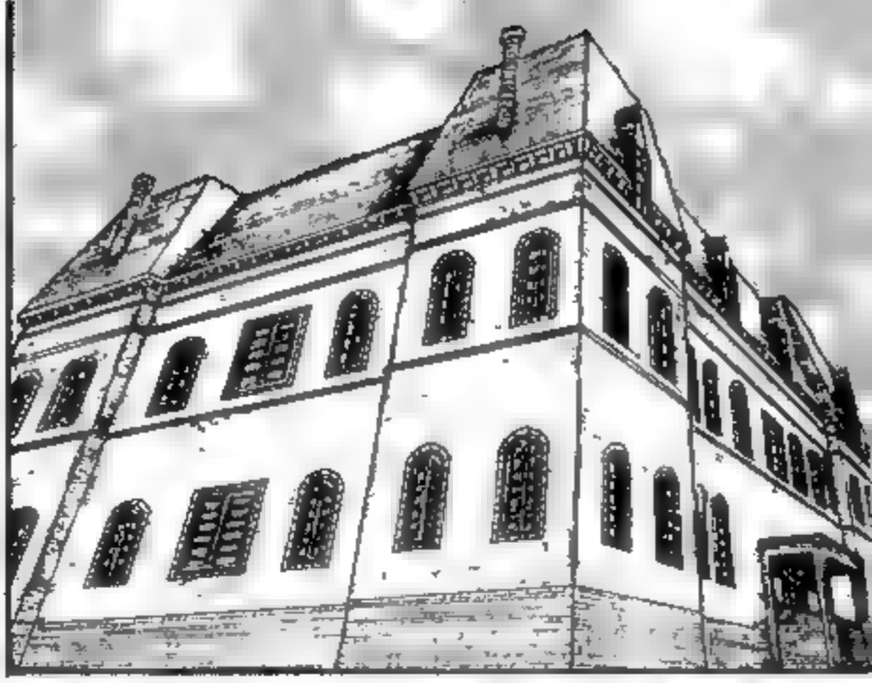
CHAPTER 12

"PERSONAL FILE PART 1"

SHOULD I CALL THE GUARDS, SIR?

SHIT! DOES HE SUSPECT SOMETHING ?


HAA
HAA



MASARU, WAIT UP. WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?

2

THE MAN AND WOMAN WHO WERE HIDING MASARU UNTIL NOW
WHO ARE THEY ?

BUT YOU JUST SAID ...
... THAT YOU'RE GOING TO KILL SHIROGANE AND NARUMI!

I JUST WANT TO PROTECT YOU FROM THE KILLERS YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS HIRED.

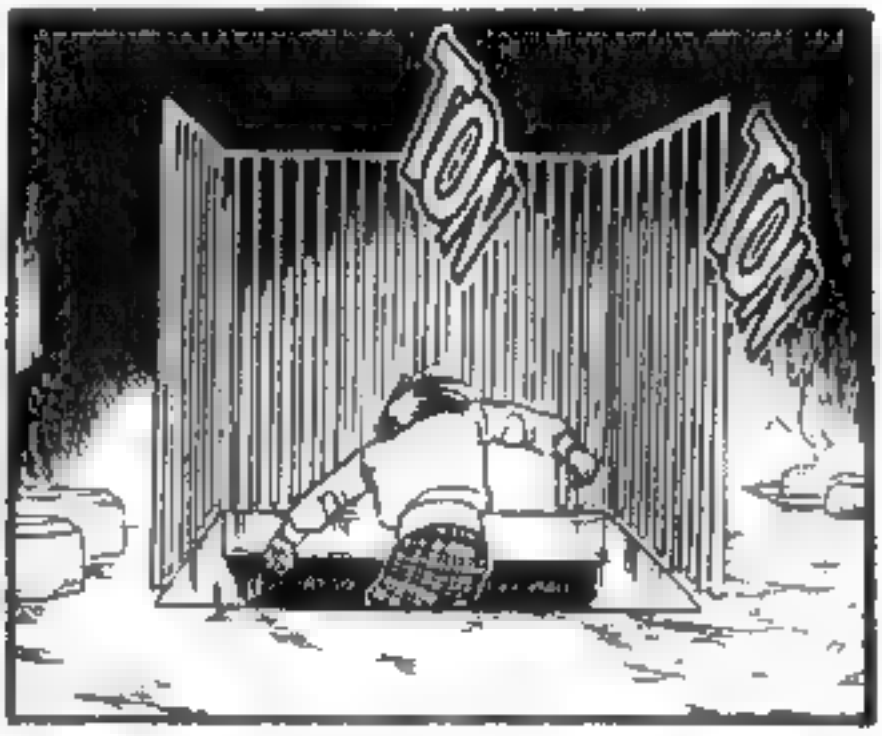
NARUMI AND SHIROGANE ARE NICE AND UNSELFISH
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE
MASARU, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME ... THOSE TWO ARE ALSO KILLERS!
WHILE THEY SAVED ME WITHOUT ASKING FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN!
COME ON, MASARU. WHO DO YOU TRUST?
PEOPLE WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT OR YOUR OWN UNCLE ?
BUT... YOU, YOU SAID: "I'LL PROTECT YOU IF YOU BECOME MY SON"
I'D LIKE TO TRUST YOU

...MY MONEY!

THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT!

THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN MY MONEY.

NARUMI TOLD ME ..



4

IS THAT YOU GIVE ME YOUR 18 BILLION YEN!

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, MASARU

WHAT I WANT

PFF

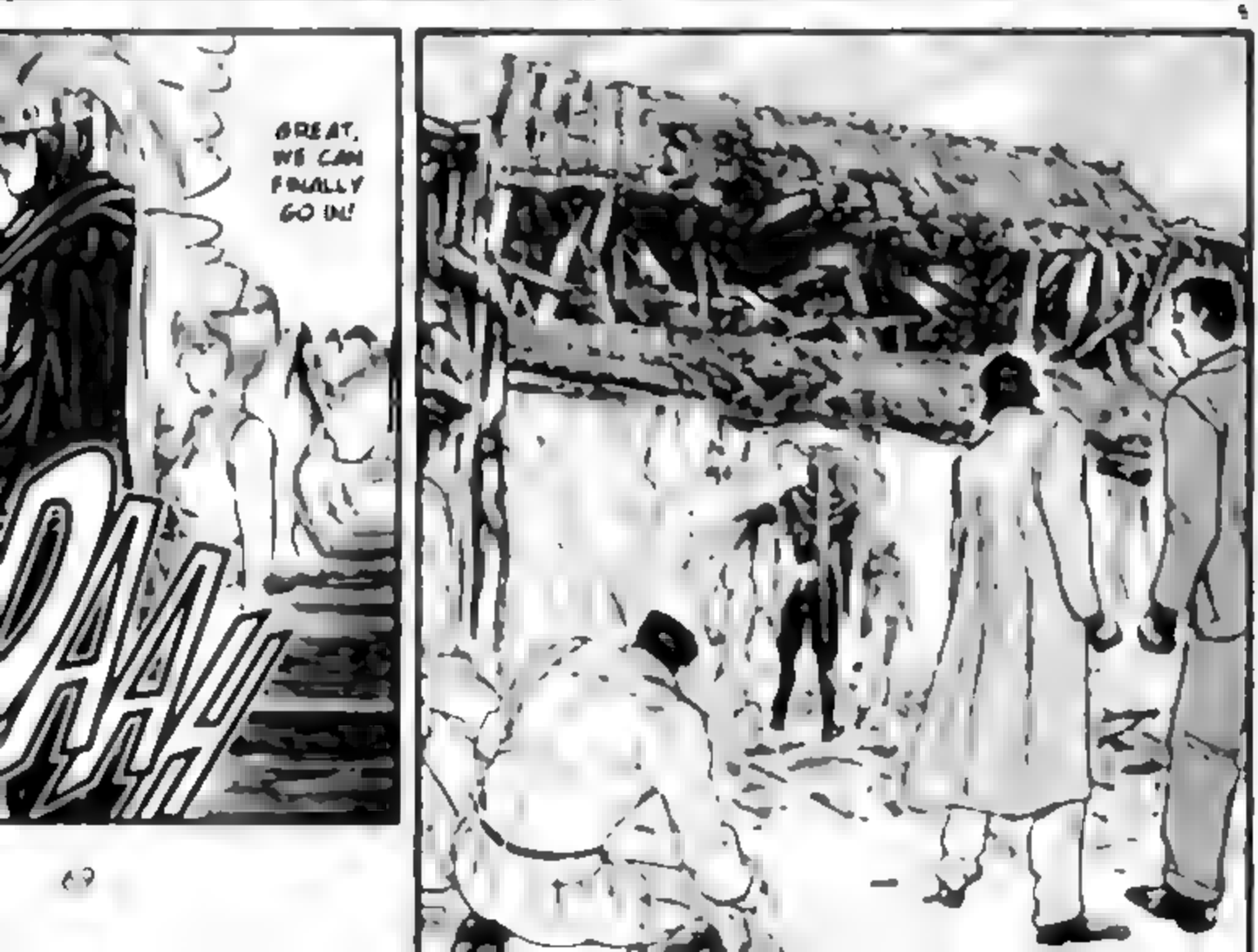
SAH

DAMN BRAT ..

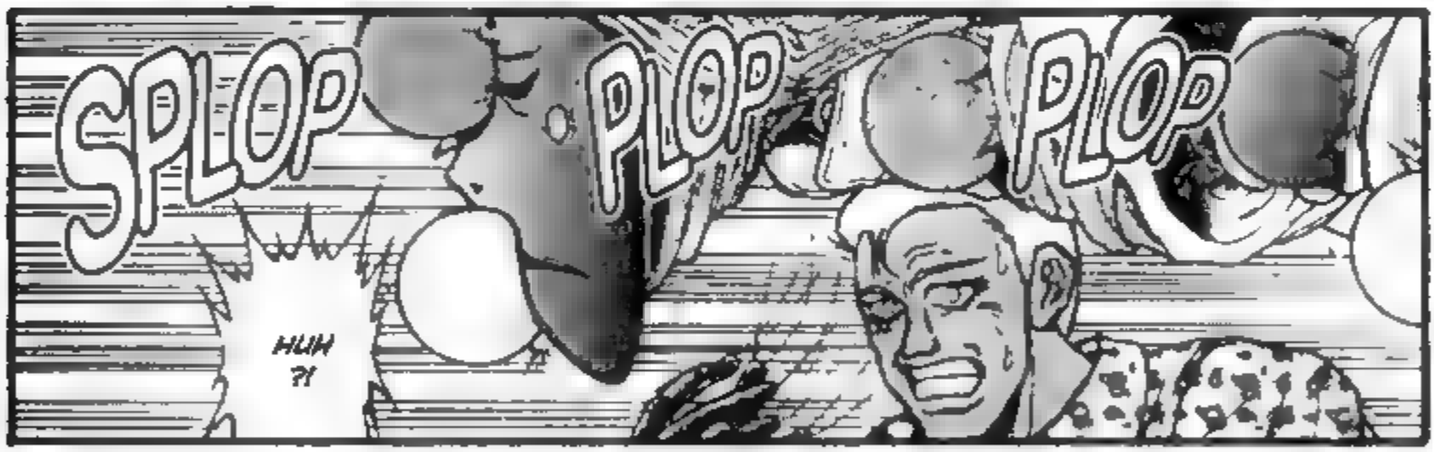
HE HAS UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING.

ALL YOUR MONEY WILL BE MINE
SO DO I

WHERE ARE YOU GOING MANUELA ?
COME ON


GREAT, WE CAN FINALLY GO IN!
AAH

LET'S GO, EVERYONE!
DAAAHH


SPLOP
PLOP
PLOP
HUH ?!

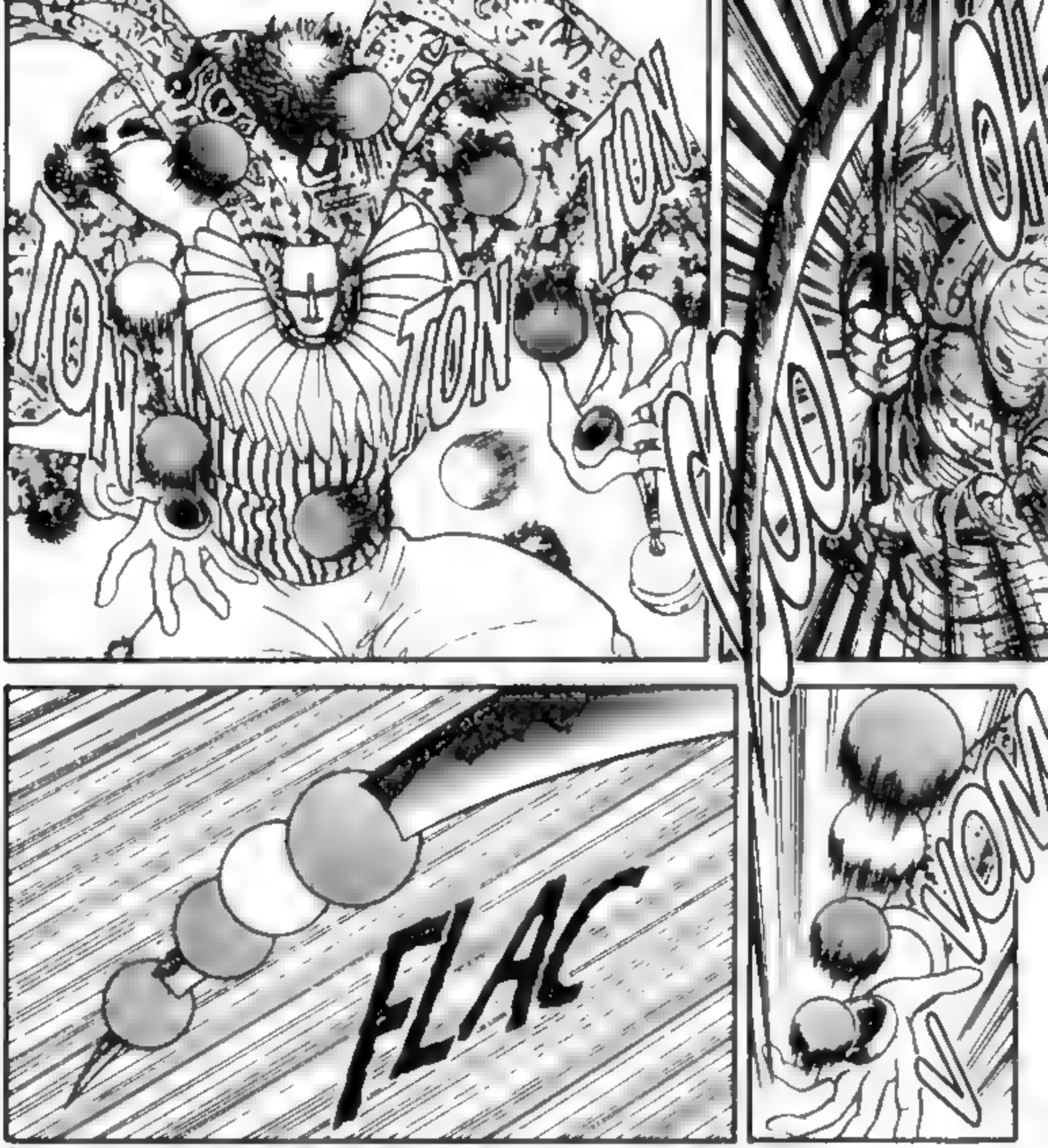
IT'S TAKAMI!
BOMBS ?!

BLAAM

HA HA HA, HOW CAN YOU BE SO DUMB?

YOU MAY HAVE DESTROYED THE DOOR OF HELL ... BUT IF YOU THINK THAT THEOGAULTIER AND I WOULD LET YOU THROUGH WITHOUT A FIGHT, YOU GUYS ARE REALLY DUMB!

IT'S OUR TURN!


TON TON TON
FLAC
6
BAAM
WHAT ?! BUT ...

HM?
NOGUCHI!
NOOO, MY PRECIOUS PUPPET!

TSS
BLA
AM

ALLOW ME CRUSH YOUR NEW PUPPET MASTER!
SO, DO ME A FAVOR
ASHIHANA
..
YOU KNOW I'M GOOD, DON'T YOU? YOU'VE KNOWN IT SINCE DAYS WHEN WE USED TO TRAIN TOGETHER AT THE CENTRE.

THIS WOMAN IS NOT LIKE US AT ALL
..
BELIEVE ME

TAKUMI, DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF OVERESTIMATING YOURSELF
...
IT'S A PUPPET UNLIKE ANY OTHER

I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DO!
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!

WE'VE ALL LEARNED TO CONTROL PUPPETS SINCE CHILDHOOD, SO.
HA HA
..
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH

HMM

SHIROGANE, YOU'RE INSANE
..
YOU SAW THAT SHE USES BOMBS, DIDN'T YOU
?
WHAT
?!

LET'S GO, THEO!
YOU'LL DIE IN A FIRE OF HELL, INSOLENT FOOL !!
BLAM
11
ARLEQUIN!
OH-AH
DIIIIIIE !!
BOOM

PLOP
PLOP

SPLOP
PLOP

WHHH
WHHH

HUH
?!

000
M
?

ALL THOSE BALLS ARE GONNA EXPLODE!
GET DOWN!
WAH!

SO, WHERE DID THEY GO?!

THEOGAULTIER THREW A GREAT NUMBER OF BALLS

IMPOSSIBLE!

THEY ONLY USE CHILDISH TECHNIQUES AND THEY THINK THEY ARE SUCH A BIG DEAL

...

WHICH MAKES THEM EVEN WEAKER.

JAPANESE PUPPET MASTERS ARE SO WEAK

THERE'S ONE THING I JUST UNDERSTOOD

HOW DARE YOU ?!

I'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR 12 YEARS!

IT'S PATHETIC!

GOZ

OMF

14

LET'S GO, THEOGAULTIER. THIS TIME, YOU CAN'T MISS THEM!

SPLOP PLOP

ION

ION

ION

.. AS INTENSE AS MINE

WHAT ?!

YOUR LAST 12 YEARS MUSTN'T HAVE BEEN .

FROM THOSE 12 YEARS OF TRAINING
LOOK .
I'M EVEN GIVING YOU BACK YOUR BALLS

SHE CALIGHT EVERY BALL ?!

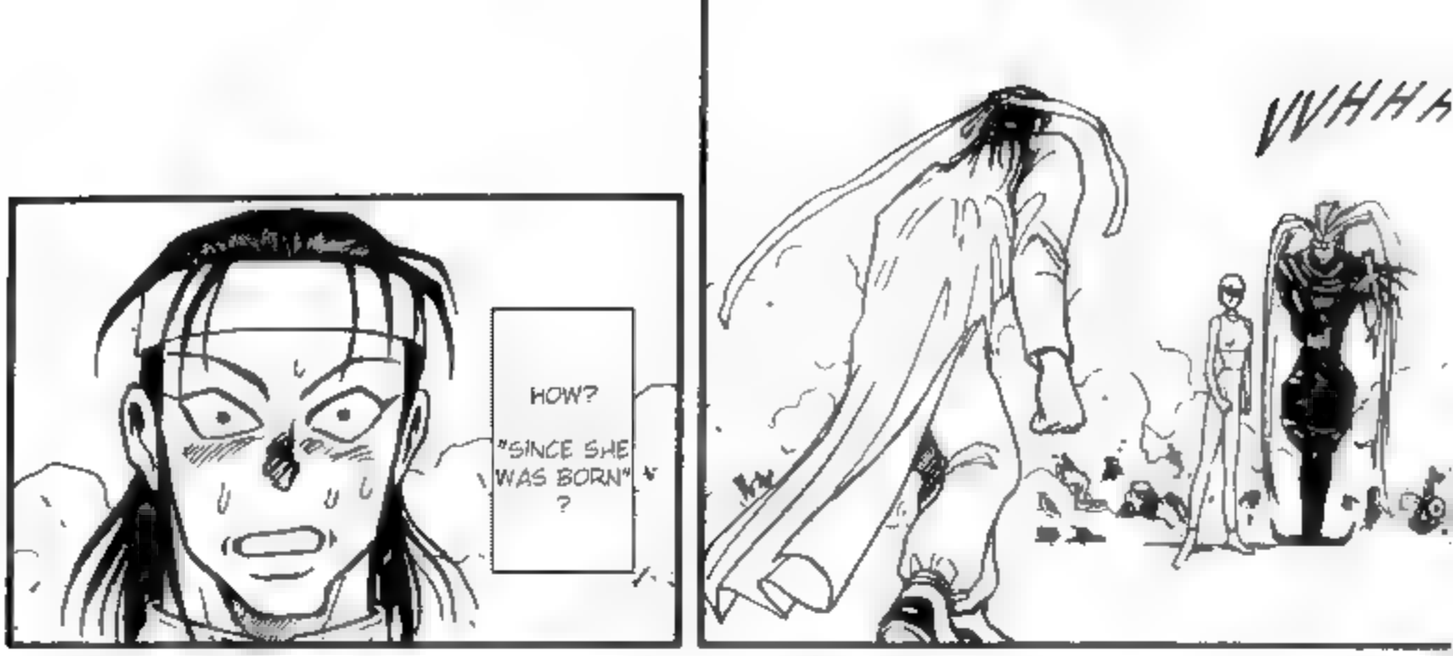
TIME TO GIVE YOU A BREAK .

BLAHAHAHAHA

DOOH

ISN'T THAT RIGHT
ARLEQUIN ?

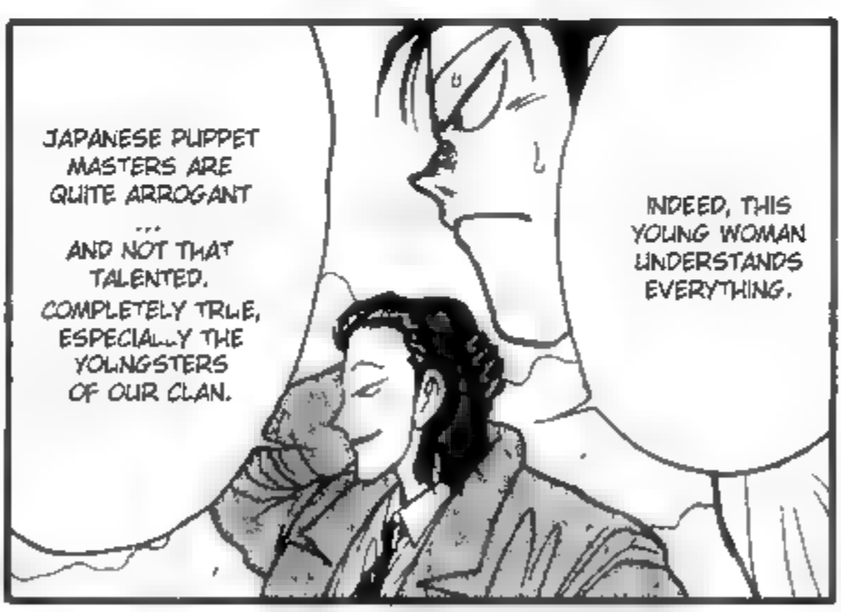
I'VE BEEN A PUPPET MASTER ..
.. SINCE I WAS BORN


HOW?
"SINCE SHE WAS BORN"
?
VVHHA

WHO IS THIS GIRL ?
WHERE DO THEY ALL COME FROM ?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS

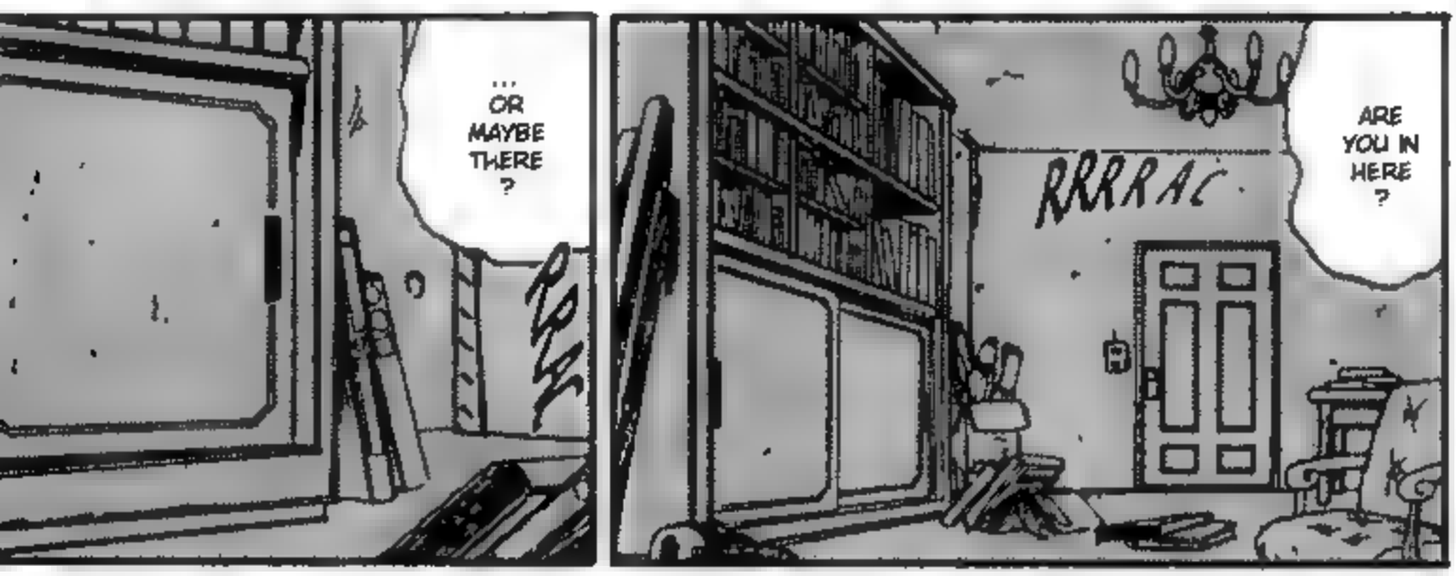
AND THEM, WHO ARE THEY? THEY CONTROL THE R PUPPETS AS IF IT WAS SOMETHING NORMAL

HEY, ASHIHANA!
I SPEND MY TIME TELLING THEM THEY HAVE TO PERFECT THEIR TECHNIQUES ...


JAPANESE PUPPET MASTERS ARE QUITE ARROGANT ... AND NOT THAT TALENTED.
COMPLETELY TRUE, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGSTERS OF OUR CLAN.
INDEED, THIS YOUNG WOMAN UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING.

I GOT SOMETHING TO ASK YOU.
EH?
GHHH

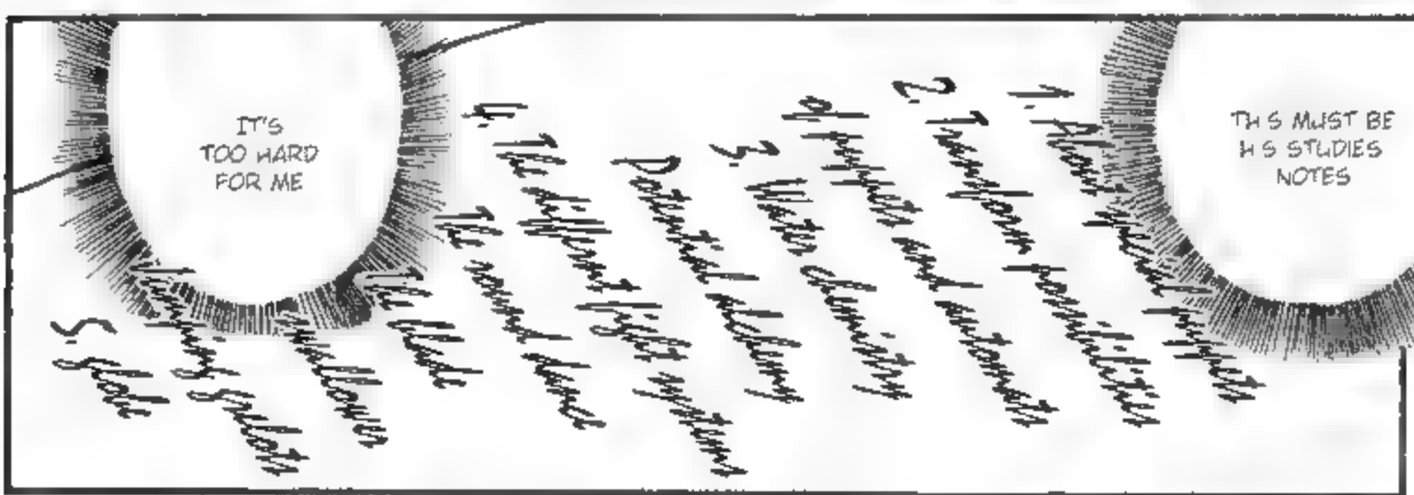
IF YOU COME BACK TO ME, I WON'T PUNISH YOU SEVERELY
RRRRAC
MA-SA-RUUUU, WHERE ARE YOUUU ?


... OR MAYBE THERE ?
RRR
RRRRAC
ARE YOU IN HERE ?

PUPPETS?
SADAYOSHI SAIGA? IT'S MY FATHER'S NAME!
Puppets Sadayoshi Saiga
I'M SCARED
I'M REALLY SCARED
WHERE ARE YOUUUU ?

FLAP
contents

YOU MUST BE HERE!
NO?
GLOPS
TAN


THIS MUST BE HIS STUDIES NOTES
1. Alchemy symbol prophets
2. Transform prophecies
of prophets about automata
3. Water chemistry
Potential alchemy
4. The different types of
The normal human
The blade
The shadow
5. Shade
IT'S TOO HARD FOR ME

EH?

16. SHIROGANE
17. MASARU
I DON'T GET IT!
WHY IS MY NAME AND SHIROGANE'S IN MY FATHER'S BOOK?

FLAAM
MASARUUUU!

ACT I : MASARU

CHAPTER 13 : "PERSONAL FILE - PART 2"

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Translated by Kayvan
Edited by vensu
Checked by Baha

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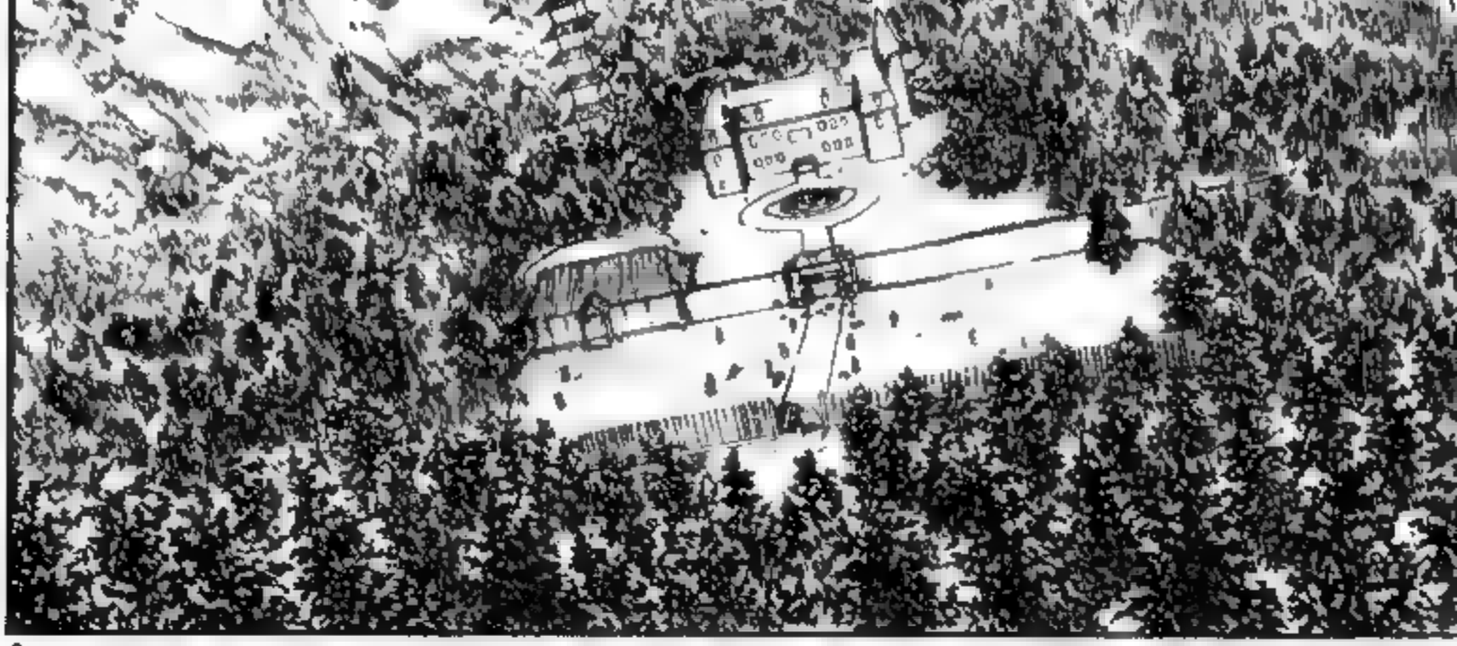


2

WHO ARE YOU AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM ?
ASHIHANA, YOU'RE GONNA ANSWER ME RIGHT NOW!

IN SUCH A TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED ERA, WHY ARE YOU STILL USING PUPPETS?
HOW CAN PUPPETS MASTERS MANIPULATE SUCH HUGE DOLLS?

YOU'RE JUST ARRIVING FROM FRANCE AND THE ONLY THING YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IS PROTECTING MASARU WITH YOUR BIG BLACK PUPPET...

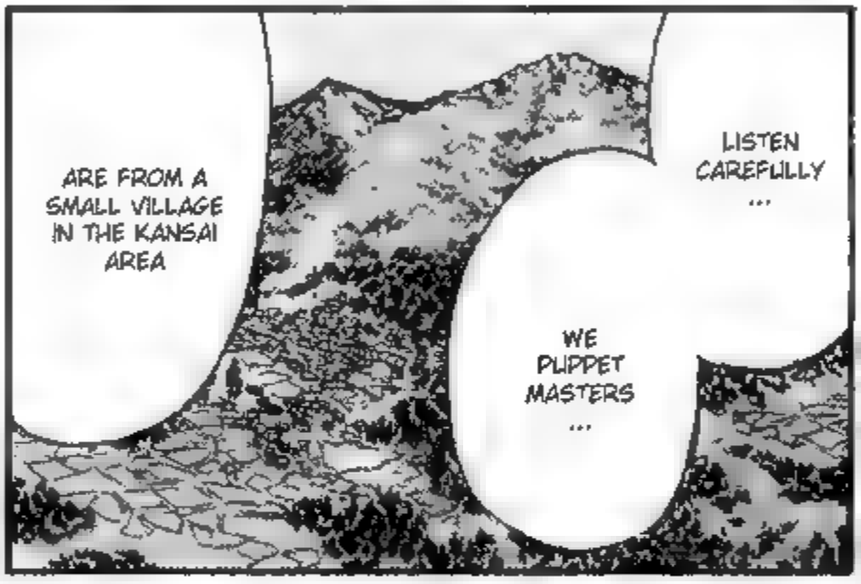
YOU TOO SHIROGANE, WHO ARE YOU?

I WILL ANSWER YOU BUT CONSIDER IT AN EXCEPTION
HEY YOU ... YOU'RE ASKING A LOT OF QUESTIONS ...

I LIKE THAT BOY ... I HAVE SOME RESPECT FOR HIM

SHUT UP HAZAMA!
THE CHIEF OF THE VILLAGE HAS FORBIDDEN TO TALK ABOUT THAT
BOSS YOU SHOULDN'T!

IN THAT VILLAGE, SINCE THE HEIAN ERA, WE'VE BEEN OFFERING SACRED PUPPET DANCES FOR THE SHINTO SANCTUARIES OF THE AREA.

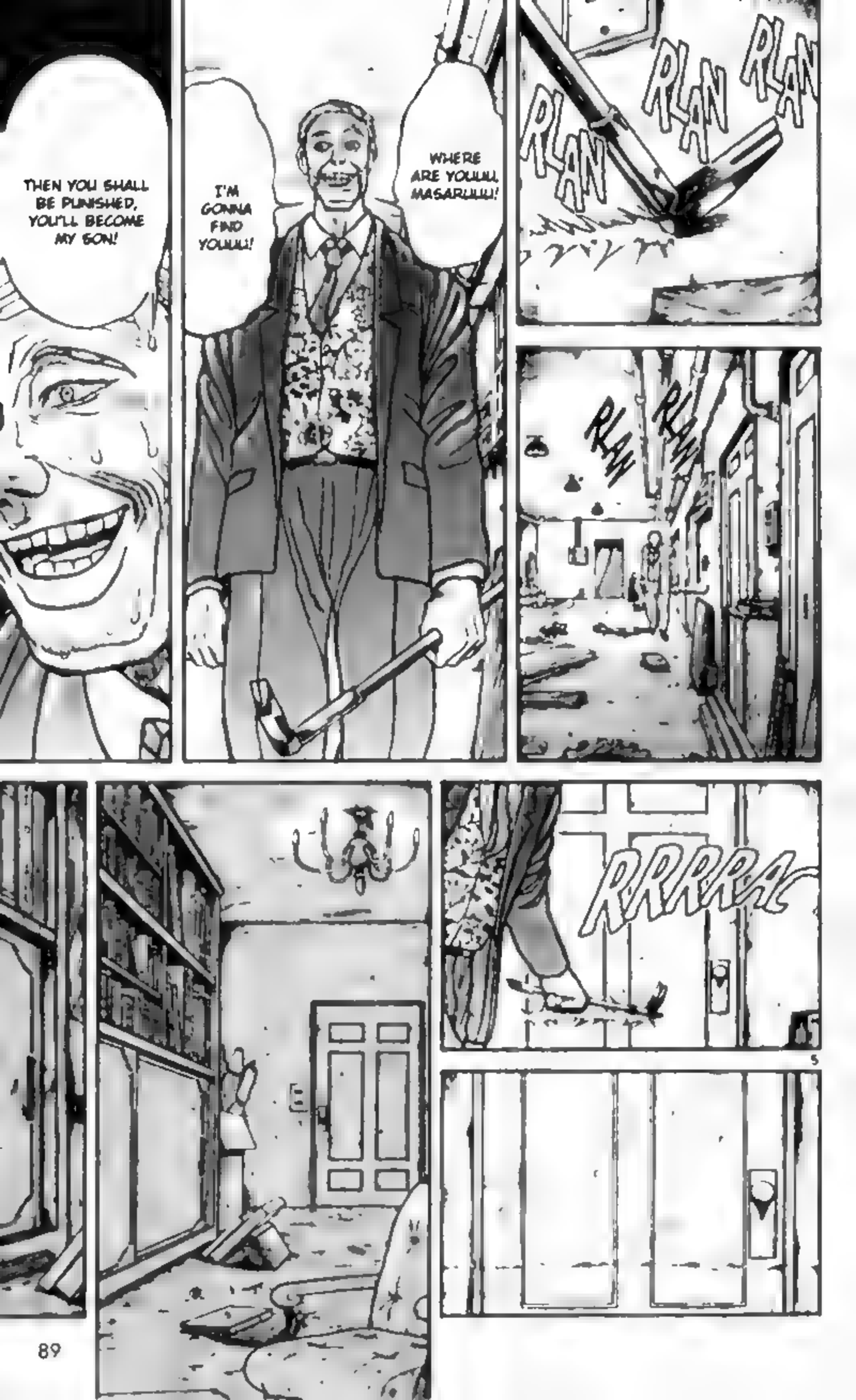

ARE FROM A SMALL VILLAGE IN THE KANSAI AREA
LISTEN CAREFULLY ...
WE PUPPET MASTERS ...

4

THAT'S THE NAME OF OUR VILLAGE.
WE ARE CALLED "THE KUROGA PEOPLE".

SOME DANCES AND SONGS WERE CREATED IN HONOR OF THE SHINTO GODS
YEAH ...
"SACRED DANCES" ?

... WE ARE THE HEIRS OF THE PUPPET MASTERS WHO USED TO ORGANIZE THIS CELEBRATION!


THEN YOU SHALL BE PUNISHED, YOU'LL BECOME MY SON!
I'M GONNA FIND YOUUU!
WHERE ARE YOUUU, MASARUUU!
RLAN
RLAN
RLAN
RLAN
RLAN
RRRRRA
5

6

I THOUGHT THERE WERE ONLY TEXTS ABOUT TECHNIQUES OF THE CREATION OF PUPPETS.

6. Techniques of chinese manipulation
Demultiplication problems
7 Random manipulations
The Iron soldier

he'll only be used to gather two dogs which will end up cutting each other's throat

Masaru is only a bait.

IT'S ABOUT ME

THERE

PAH

Masaru is only a bait

BUT

WHAT ?!

puppets have become useless as well as their masters ...

once Shirogane has destroyed all the other puppets ... Masaru will be the trigger for the extermination of all the Kuroga's people

7

FLAP FLAP FLAP

WHERE ARE THE PAGES ON SHIROGANE ?

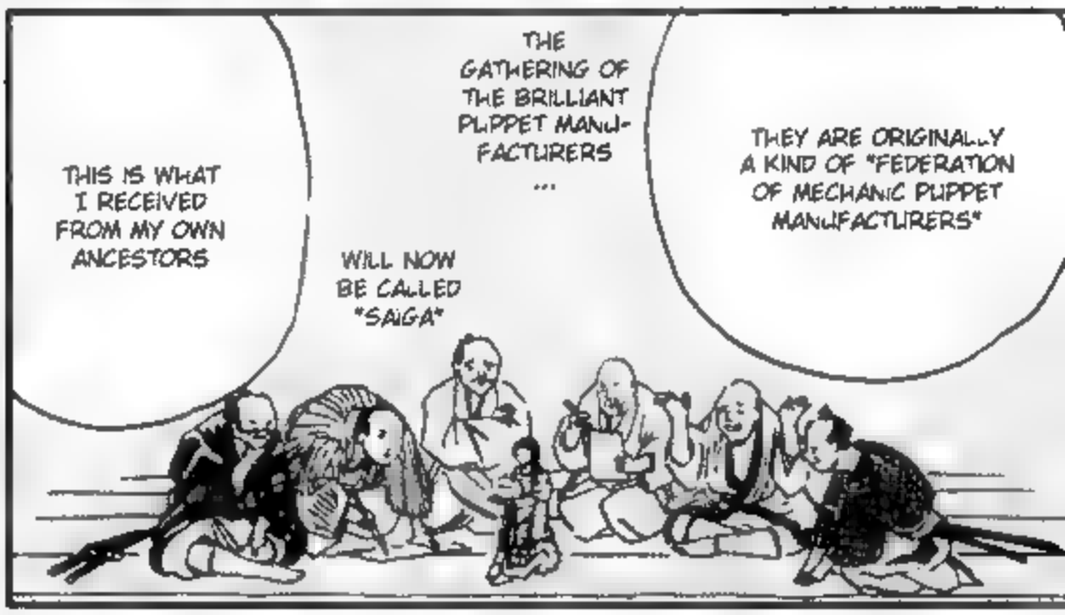
.. WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?!

I'M JUST .. BAIT ?

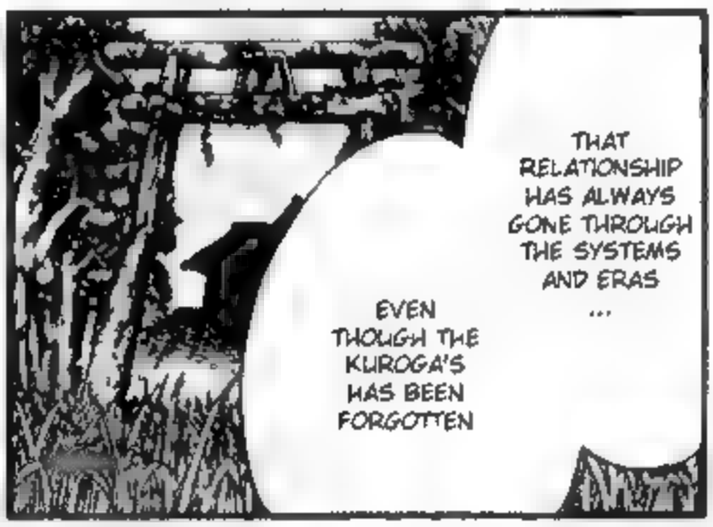
FOR AGES
THE SAIGAS HAVE BEEN MAKING PUPPETS THAT WE'VE BEEN USING ..

HEHE ...
HOW DID YOU GET FROM RELIGIOUS DANCES ..
... TO THIS ?!

SAIGAS MAKE PUPPETS AND KUROGAS MAKE THEM "DANCE"


THIS IS WHAT I RECEIVED FROM MY OWN ANCESTORS
THE GATHERING OF THE BRILLIANT PUPPET MANU-FACTURERS ...
WILL NOW BE CALLED "SAIGA"
THEY ARE ORIGINALLY A KIND OF "FEDERATION OF MECHANIC PUPPET MANUFACTURERS"

WHICH THEN BECAME A HUGE FIRM
THE SAIGAS HAVE KEPT USING THEIR SKILLS TO FINALLY CREATE A SMALL MECHANICS COMPANY ...
SAÏGA


EVEN THOUGH THE KUROGA'S HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN
THAT RELATIONSHIP HAS ALWAYS GONE THROUGH THE SYSTEMS AND ERAS ...

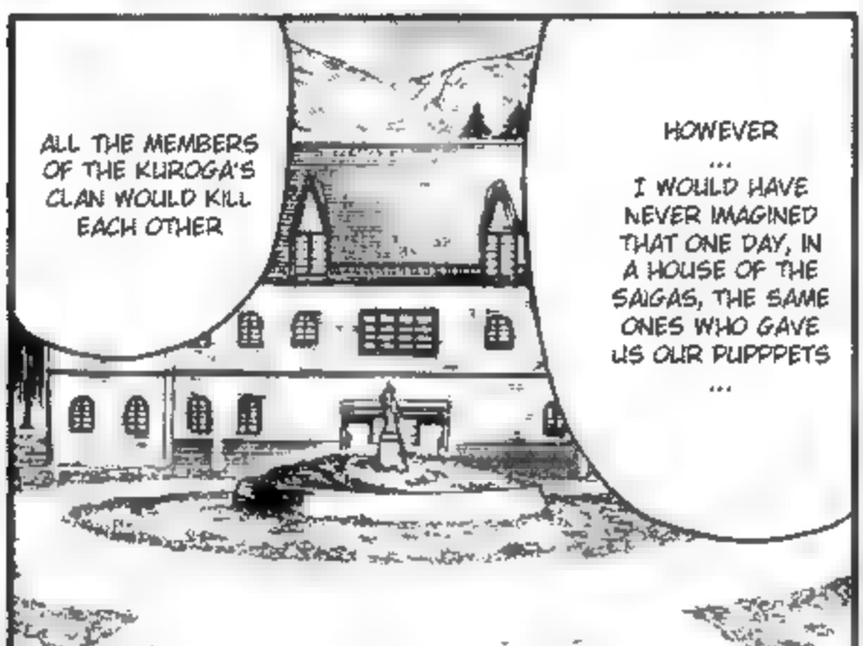
AND THEN ...
THE FAMILY'S CHIEF OF EACH GENERATION HAS DONE RESEARCH HERE IN THIS HOUSE IN ORDER TO CREATE EVEN MORE POWER-FUL PUPPETS.
THE SAIGAS HAVE CONTINUED TO INVENT NEW PUPPETS
HOWEVER ...

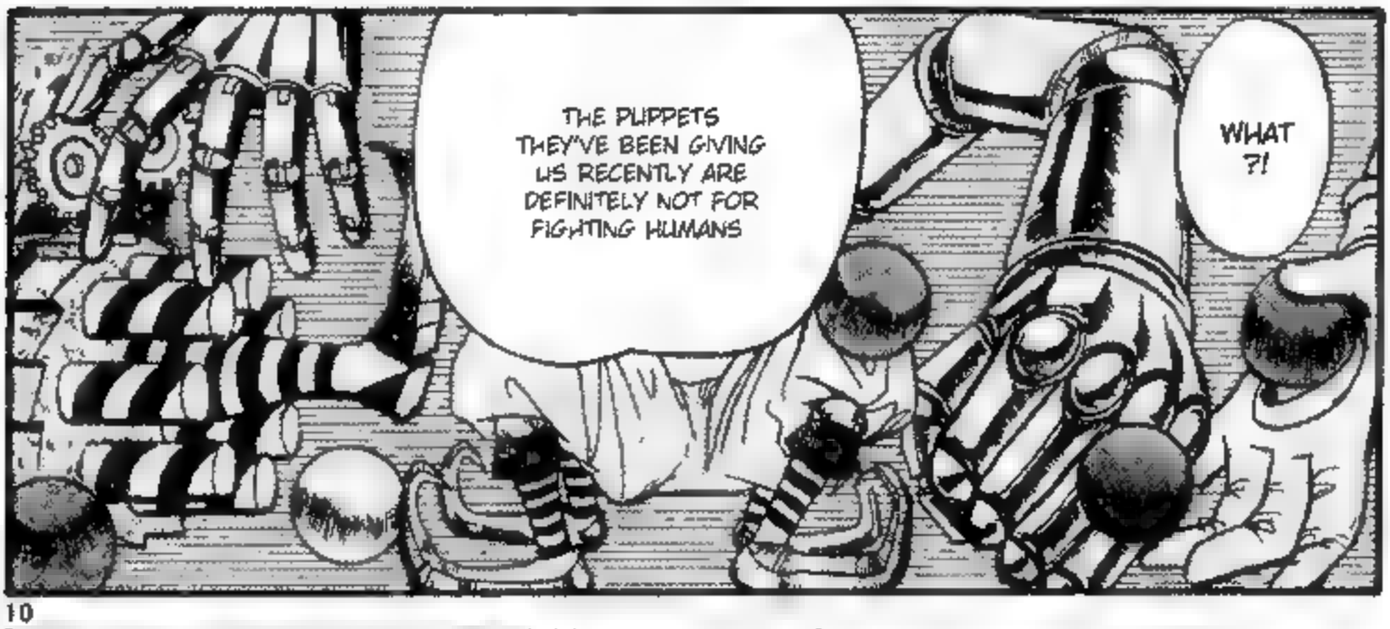
...
WHAT ?
THAT'S RIGHT! WE, THE KUROGAS, USED TO PAY THE SAIGAS..
TO MAKE PUPPETS FOR US!
THE ROLES HAVE BEEN REVERSED ..
BUT... WHY DID THEY NEED TO MAKE THOSE PUPPETS ?

AND ASKS US TO TEST THE R INVENTIONS.
AND NOW THE SAIGA'S BOSS GIVES US A LOT OF MONEY . .

WE'RE KNOWN AS THE "KUROGA'S PUPPET MASTERS"
WE'RE WILLING TO ACCEPT EVERY MISSION AS LONG AS WE'RE WELL PAID

BECAME FAMOUS AMONG THE THIEVES
THANKS TO THESE PUPPETS WE, KUROGA'S PEOPLE...


ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE KUROGA'S CLAN WOULD KILL EACH OTHER
HOWEVER ... I WOULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED THAT ONE DAY, IN A HOUSE OF THE SAIGAS, THE SAME ONES WHO GAVE US OUR PUPPPETS ...



16. SHIROGANE

patiently worked out, after numerous experiments, by the Saïgas' chiefs
thanks to a special puppet...
are gonna be crushed by Shirogane
All these puppets

To complete what I consider as my life's work, I got an idea ...

My other children will certainly try to kill Masaru. And, for that mission, they'll entrust Kuroga's people, whom they known since their childhood.

When I die my whole fortune will be his

MY BROTHER WILL ASK THE KUROGA'S PEOPLE TO KIDNAP MASARU AND BY DOING SO...

he will try to adopt Masaru in order to get my money

Among the former generation, there's a Zenji or someone of his kind...

WILL DESTROY ONE ANOTHER AND DISAPPEAR

THE KUROGAS AND THE PUPPETS WHICH ARE HERE ...

All the influential Saïgas' members will fight to get him back and the Kurogas, employed by these members, will thus crush each other with their puppets...

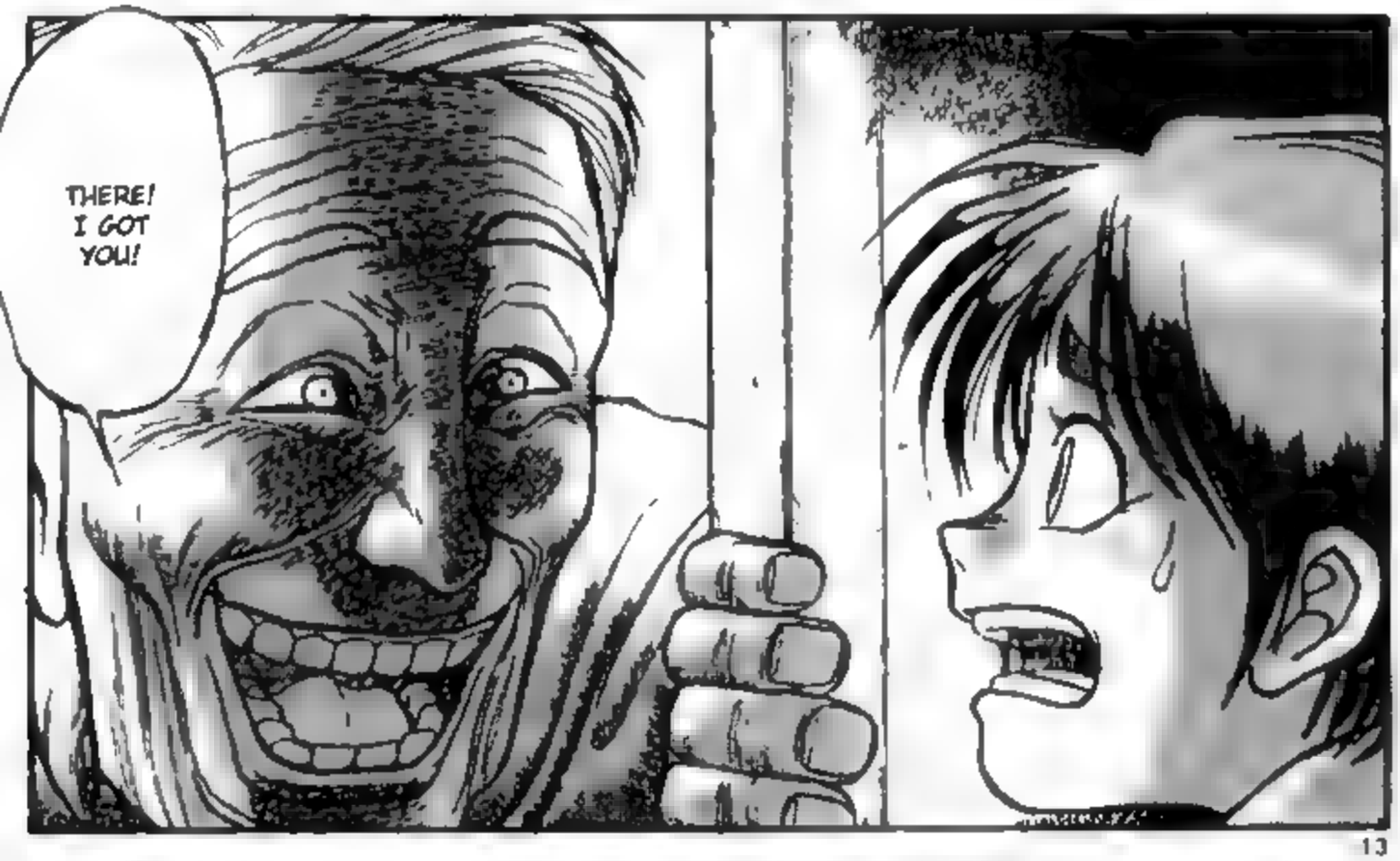
IS THAT ...

ALL I GET ...

GOH

MASARU S JUST A BAIT

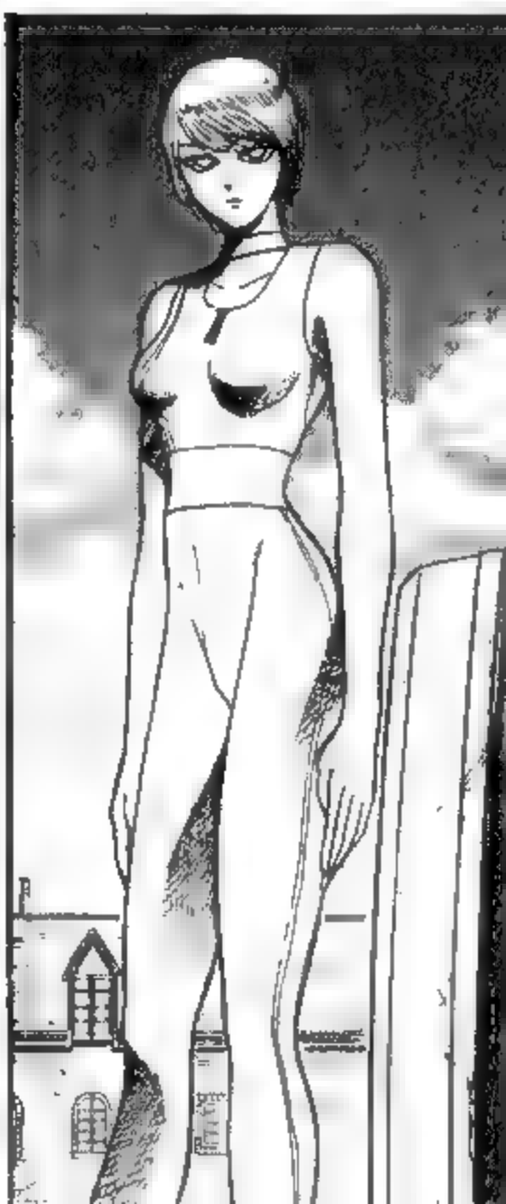
ONLY FOR THAT
I..
AM BORN
..


THERE! I GOT YOU!

HOWEVER
..
THAT'S NORMAL!
PUPPETS MADE TO DESTROY OTHER PUPPETS
...
I AIN'T SURE I GOT IT ALL
SAIGAS MAKE PUPPETS
..
KUROGAS MANIPULATE THEM

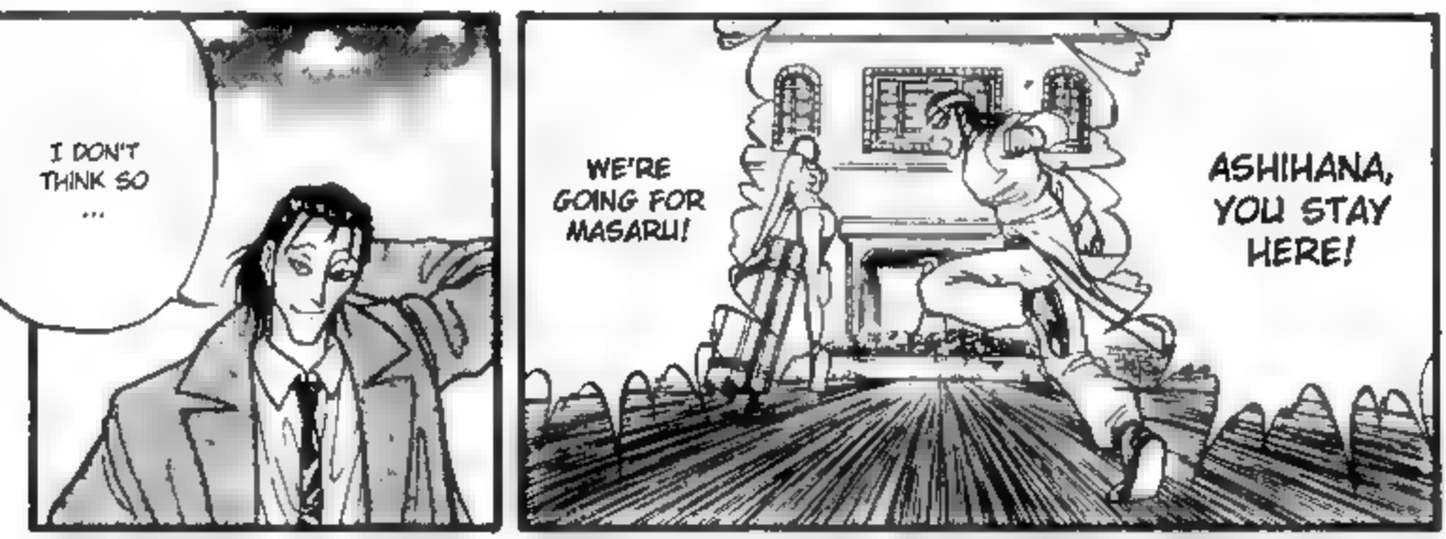
VHHHH
..
MUCH MORE
THIS LADY MUST KNOW
..

IF YOU KEEP ON TRYING TO HURT MASTER MASARU
..



I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING AND THEN I'LL KILL YOU!

DAH
LET'S GO!
WE HAVE TO RESCUE MASARU!
HEHE!
SHE'S GOT SOME GUTS!


I DON'T THINK SO ...
WE'RE GOING FOR MASARU!
ASHIHANA, YOU STAY HERE!

AND GO GET ALL OUR PUPPET MASTERS !!
OK!
HAZAMA! GATHER OUR FORCES ON THAT SIDE!

DAH

BOMF
BOMF
BOMF
SPAH

WHAT DOES THAT CHANGE FOR ME ?!
BOMF
DAN
HA HA HA HA !!
I'VE KNOWN MY BROTHER'S PLANS FOR A WHILE!
SPAH

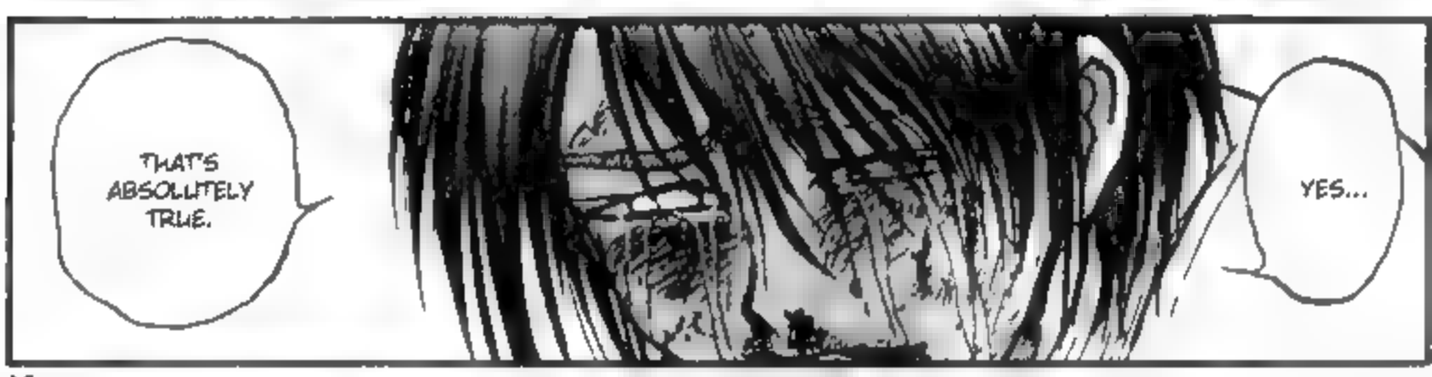
DON'T YOU THINK SO ?!
HA HA!
I'LL BE THE WINNER IN THE END!

IF THE KUROGAS ENJOY KILLING ONE ANOTHER AROUND US ...

THAT'S WHY YOU'D BETTER NOT OPPOSE ME!
YOU ARE NOTHING!
HEUH
DON'T YOU GET IT ?
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF MASARU ...
YOU'RE JUST A BAIT, IT'S WRITTEN ON YOUR FATHER'S BOOK!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BECOMING MY ADOPTIVE SON!
HEE HEE
HEE

I MUST KEEP SMILING ...
A SAIGA? WALKING TO SCHOOL?
WE DON'T WANT YOU IN OUR SCHOOL, YOU LOSER!

NARUMI
THAT'S TRUE
YOU AND ME ARE HAVE A LOT N COMMON
CRAC


THAT'S ABSOLUTELY TRUE.
YES...

YOU COULD BECOME MUCH STRONGER THAN ME!
IF YOU REALLY WANT ...
A BAIT !
I AIN'T JUST ...

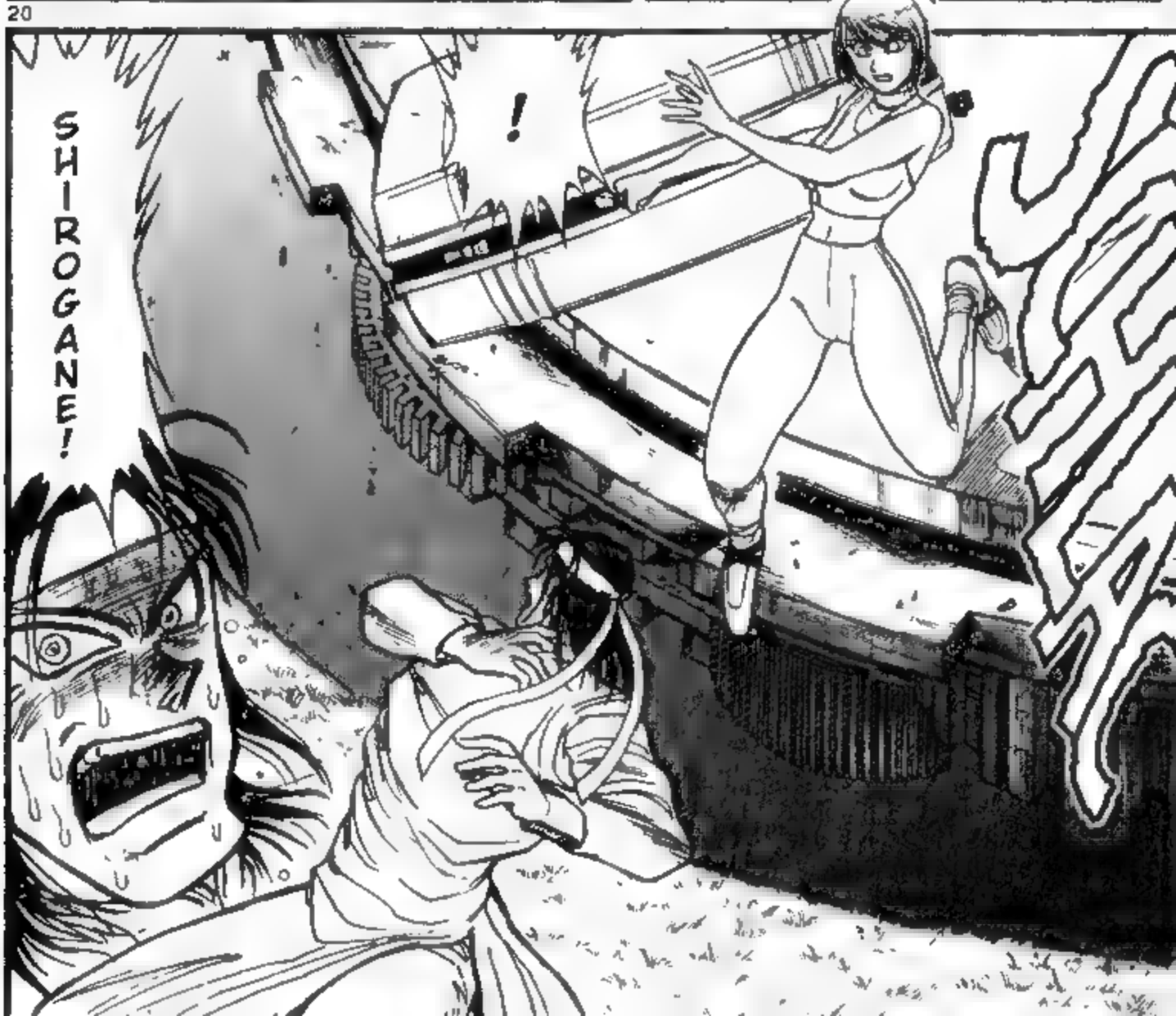
WHAT ?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY MASARU ?

NEVER ...
NO...
SAY IT AGAIN, DAMN BRAT !

YOUR SON!
I WILL NEVER BE...

THERE ARE TRAPS ALL OVER THE PLACE! ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!
NARUMI, WATCH OUT!
TAN TAN TAN
WE'RE COMING MASARU!

NOOO! I CAN'T HAVE A CRISIS NOW!
GLOUPS
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT ...


SHIROGANE!
!

ACT I : MASARU
CHAPTER 6 : "ABYSS"

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Edited by vensu
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2

ZOOHH
...AAHH!
TAH

TAAH
BA

SRAC
GHHH
...
...
NARUMI
...
DAAHR

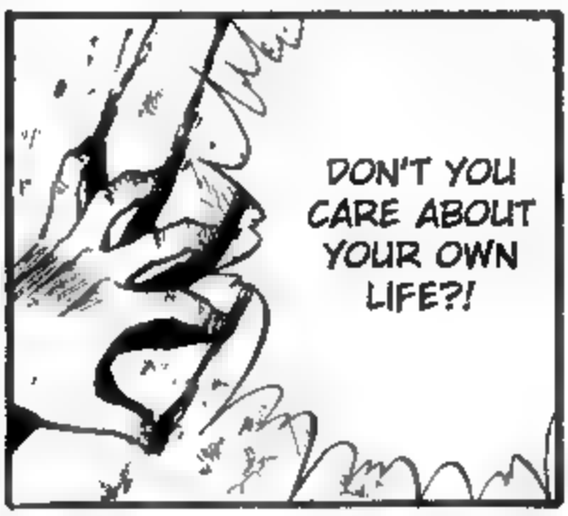
I'M...
SLIPPING
RRRH

SHIROGANE! DROP YOUR BAG!
NO... I CAN'T
..

IF ONLY I HADN'T THAT CRISIS NOW !!

PROTECT MASTER MASARU ANYMORE !
IF I LOOSE AR.EQUIN ... I WON'T BE ABLE TO ...

THEN ... LET GO OF ME NARUMI ..
RESCUE MASTER ... I TRUST YOU.
I'LL RESCUE MASARU !!
EVEN WITHOUT ARLEQUIN ..


DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR OWN LIFE?!

SHIROGANE, LISTEN TO ME ..
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PROTECT MASARU !

YOU ALL MAKE ME SICK! YOU KILL EACH OTHER AND YOU DIE AS IF YOU WERE USELESS PUPPETS.

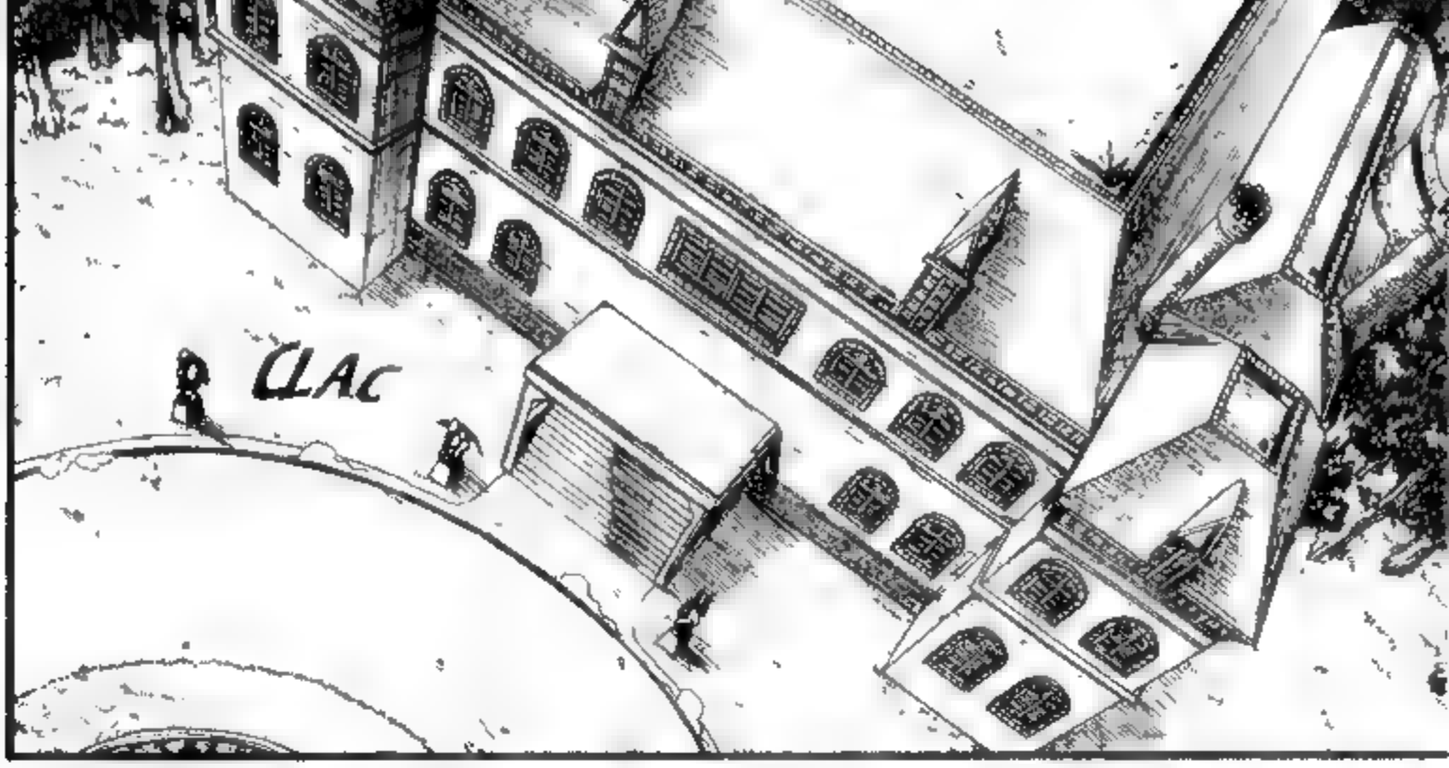
YOU DUMBASS! ARE YOU A PUPPET YOURSELF ?!
DOH

IF YOU'RE NOT GIVING ANY IMPORTANCE TO YOUR LIFE ...
YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW PRICELESS HUMAN LIFE IS

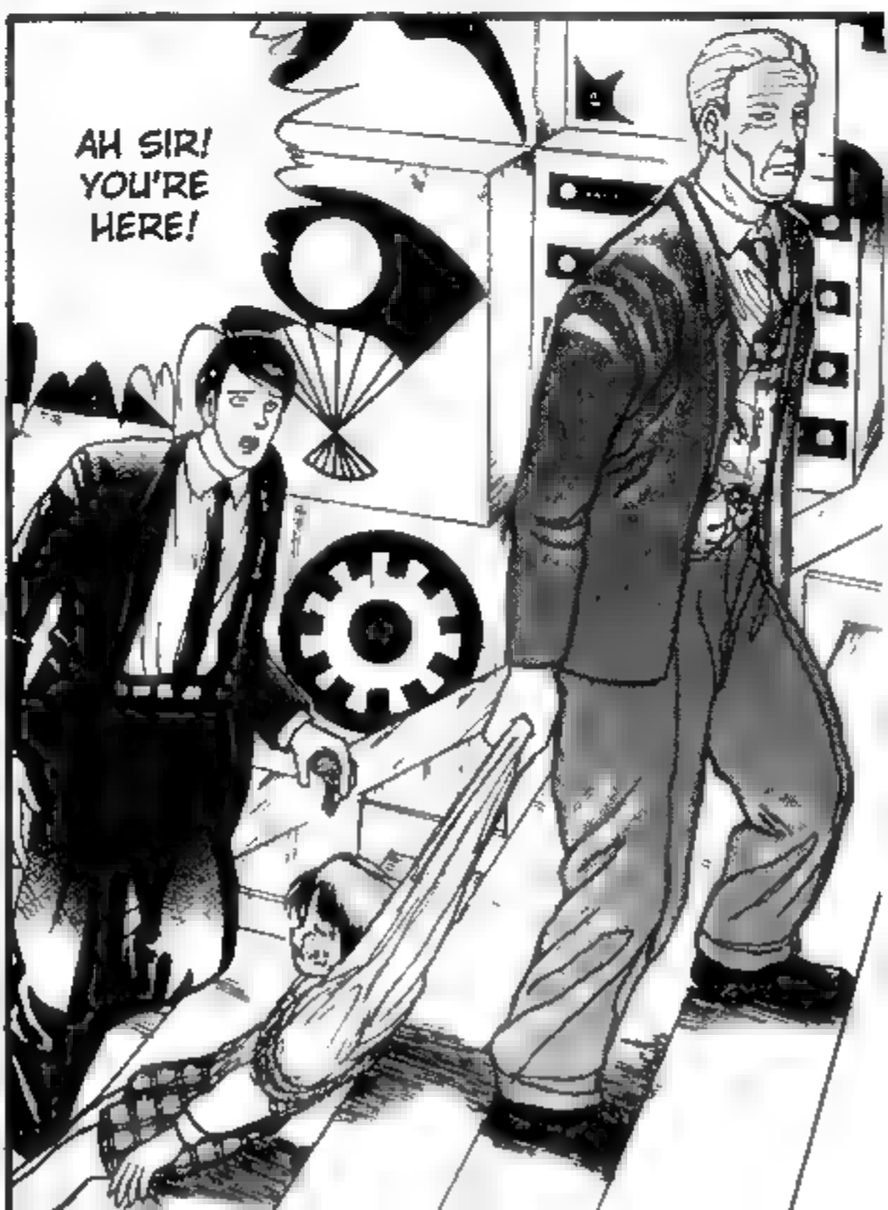
BAM

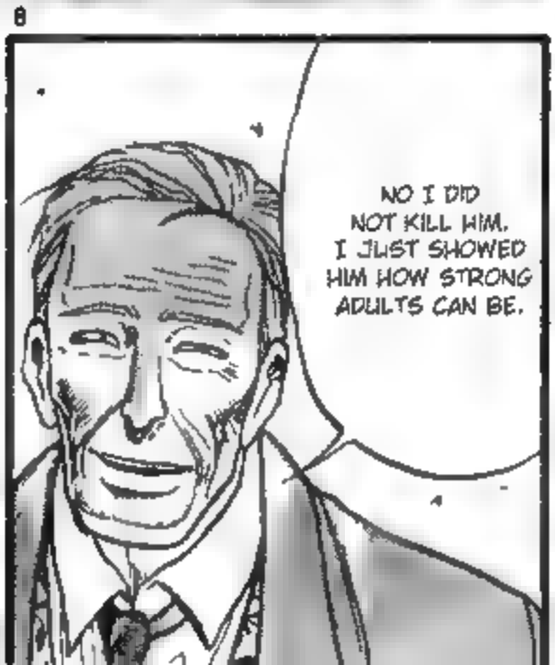
SHIT!! I DON'T WANNA DIE AT ALL!

AP
WON'T !!
BOM
AND I ...
DOOF

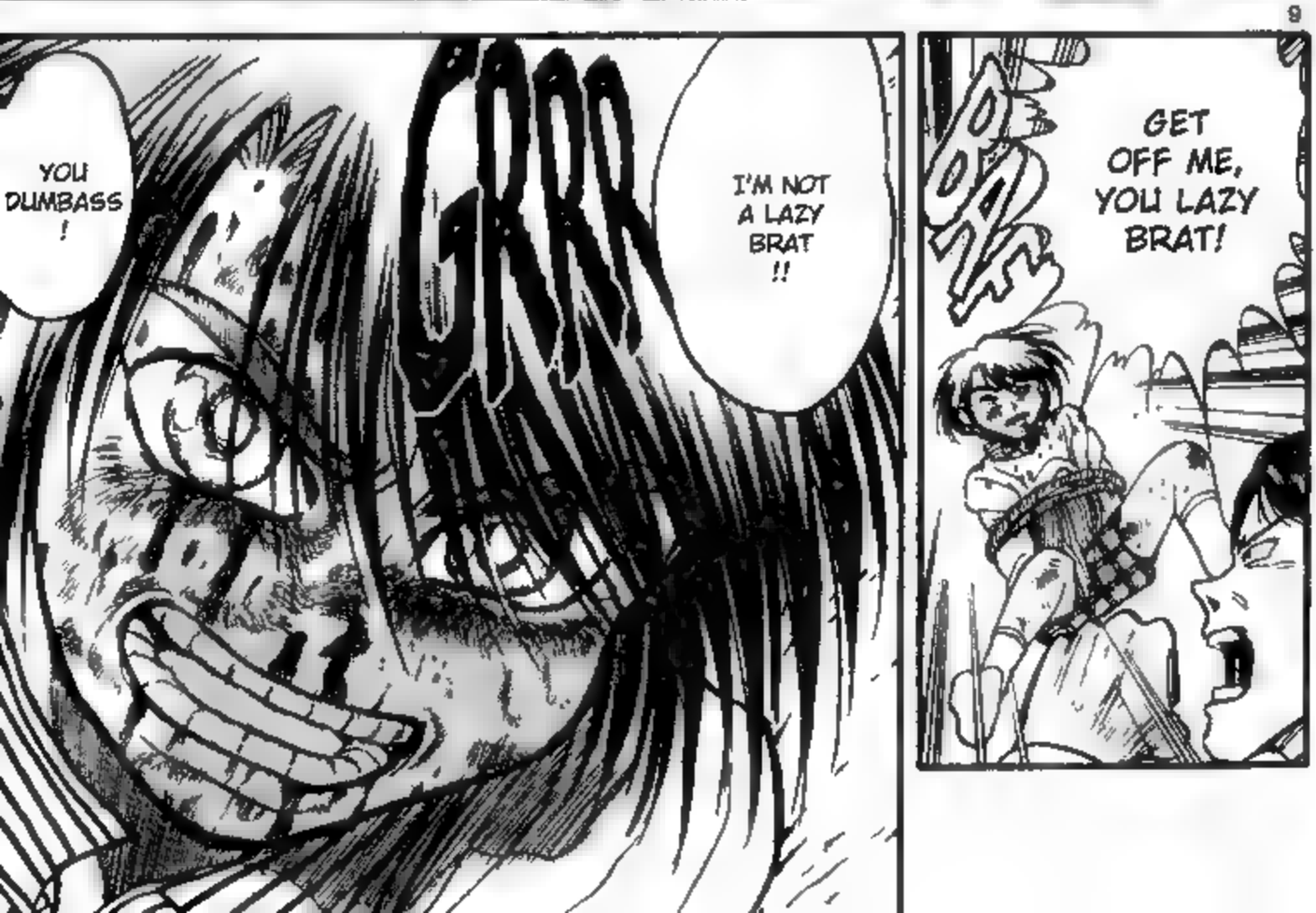

CLAC

BUT SIR ... YOU ...
YES. I MANAGED TO FIND HIM.


AH SIR! YOU'RE HERE!


NO I DID NOT KILL HIM. I JUST SHOWED HIM HOW STRONG ADULTS CAN BE.

GRR
YES, SIR!
HERE, TAKE CARE OF HIM ...
AS SOON AS HE UNDERSTOOD HE HAD BEEN USED AS A THING SINCE HE WAS BORN ...
HE BECAME LIKE THIS, ALMOST ANOTHER KID.
HA HA HA! I THINK YOU'LL NEED TO MUZZLE HIM!
AAAAH! GET OFF ME!


GRR
YOU DUMBASS !
I'M NOT A LAZY BRAT !!
GET OFF ME, YOU LAZY BRAT!

EVERYTHING'S OVER
...
WE DON'T NEED THE PUPPETS NOR THE MASTERS ANYMORE

WHAT'S WRITTEN
IN THAT BOOK

HE'S ACTING WEIRD, ISN'T HE ?

THAT'S TRUE
...

THE MASTERS AND THEIR PUPPETS WILL END CRUSHING ONE ANOTHER AND NOTHING WILL BE LEFT. THERE'S MY GOAL.

THOSE, WILLING TO GET MASARU BACK WILL FIGHT EACH OTHER THROUGH THEIR PUPPETS MASTERS.

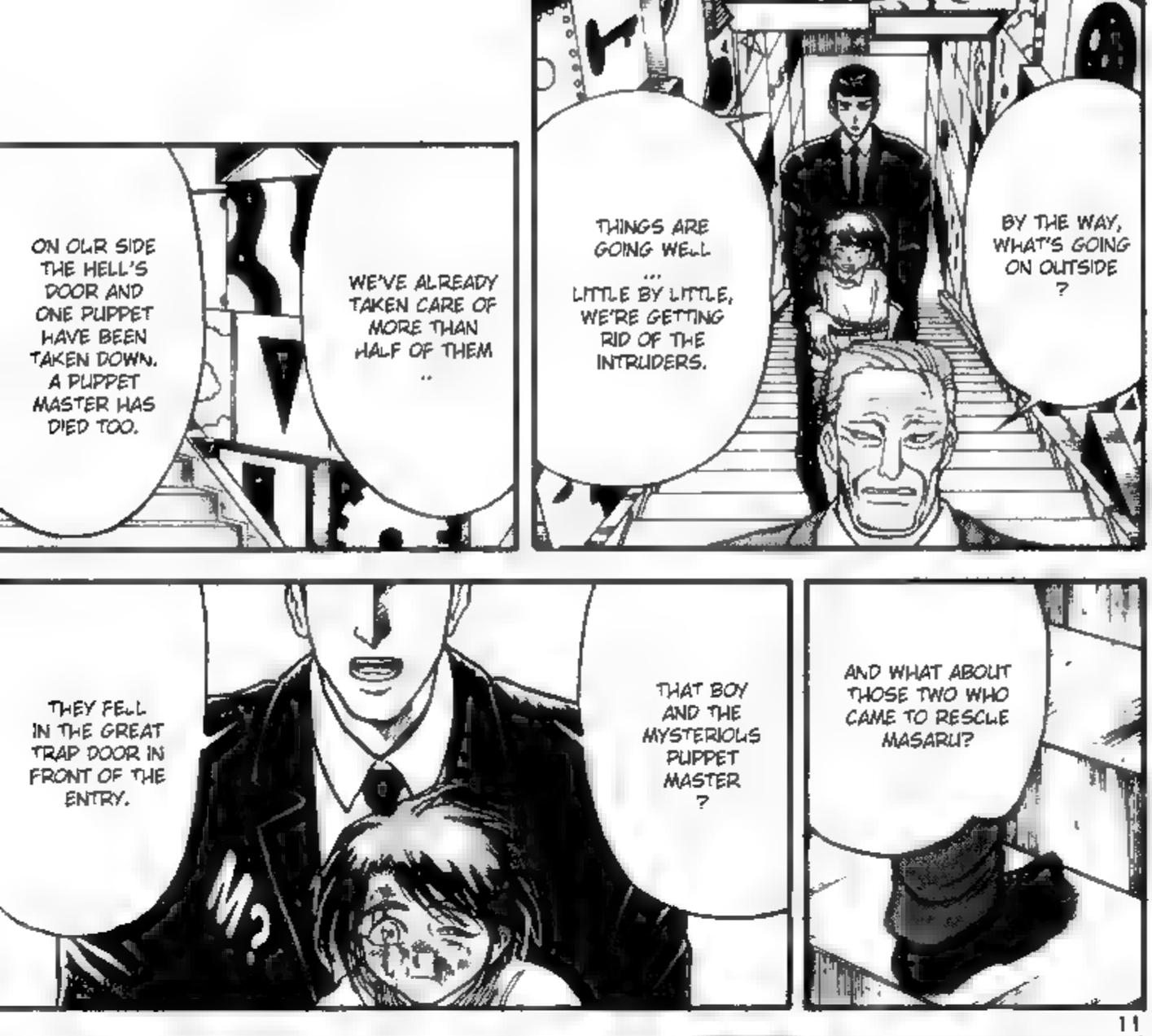
I HAD A CHILD WITH MY "OFFICIAL" MISTRESS
...
IN ORDER TO CAUSE HEAVY FIGHTS FOR MY LEGACY

MUM ?

WAS I BORN ONLY FOR THAT

HE'LL HELP ME TO REACH MY ULTIMATE GOAL.

MASARU'S JUST A BAIT.


ON OUR SIDE THE HELL'S DOOR AND ONE PUPPET HAVE BEEN TAKEN DOWN. A PUPPET MASTER HAS DIED TOO.
WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF MORE THAN HALF OF THEM ..
THINGS ARE GOING WELL ... LITTLE BY LITTLE, WE'RE GETTING RID OF THE INTRUDERS.
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE ?

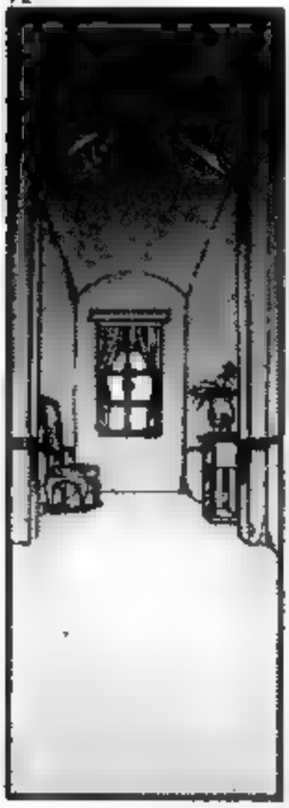
THEY FELL IN THE GREAT TRAP DOOR IN FRONT OF THE ENTRY.
M?
THAT BOY AND THE MYSTERIOUS PUPPET MASTER ?
AND WHAT ABOUT THOSE TWO WHO CAME TO RESCUE MASARU?

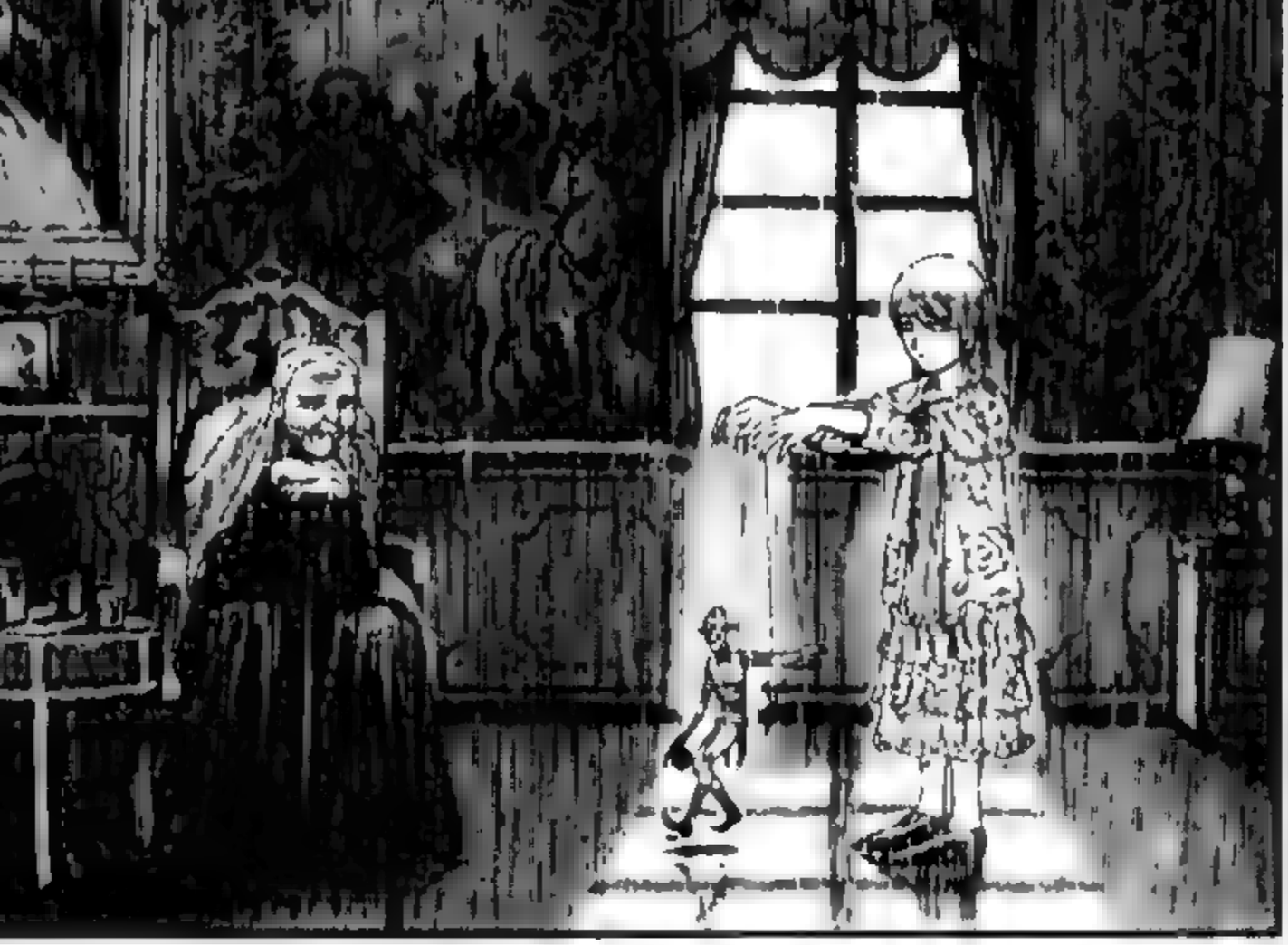
LET'S GO!
AND, FINALLY, YOU SHALL BECOME MY SON!
LET'S BRING HIM IN THE MONI-TORING ROOM.
I'M GONNA SHOW YOU THEIR DISLOCATED BODIES TO CONVINCE YOU.
LISTEN TO ME MASARU ... I'VE GOT AN EXCE...ENT IDEA!
NARUMI AND SHIROGANE CAN'T BE DEAD!
THAT'S NOT TRUE !
THEY'RE DEAD, THEN ...

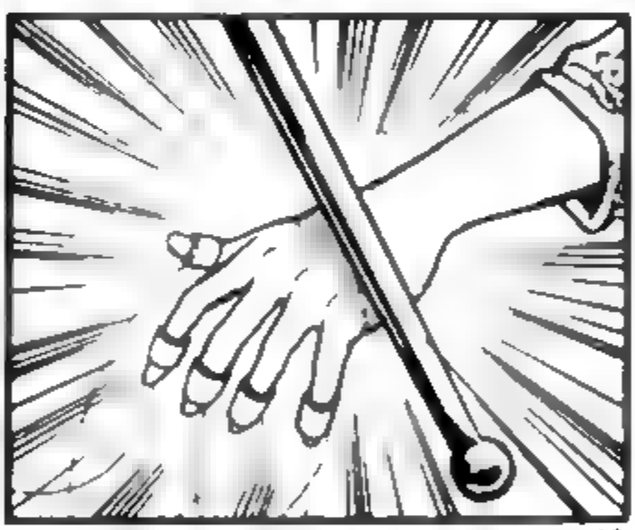
SCHHHH

WHHH

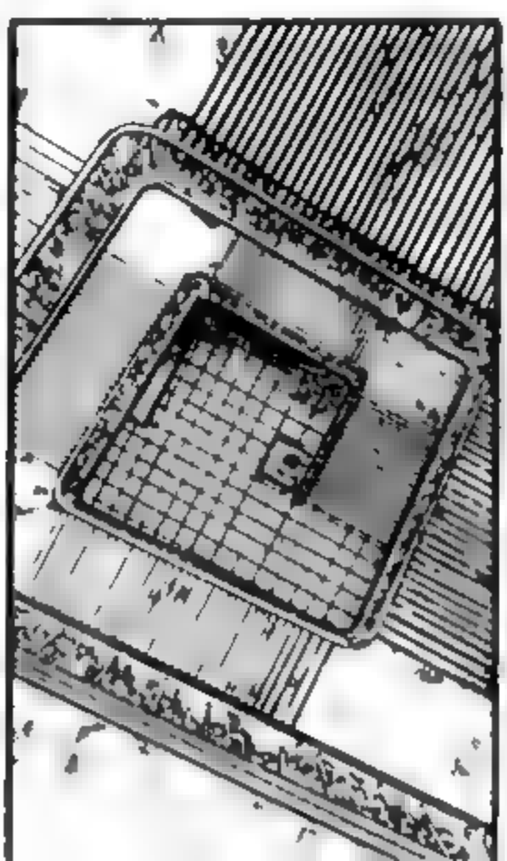
SPLACH

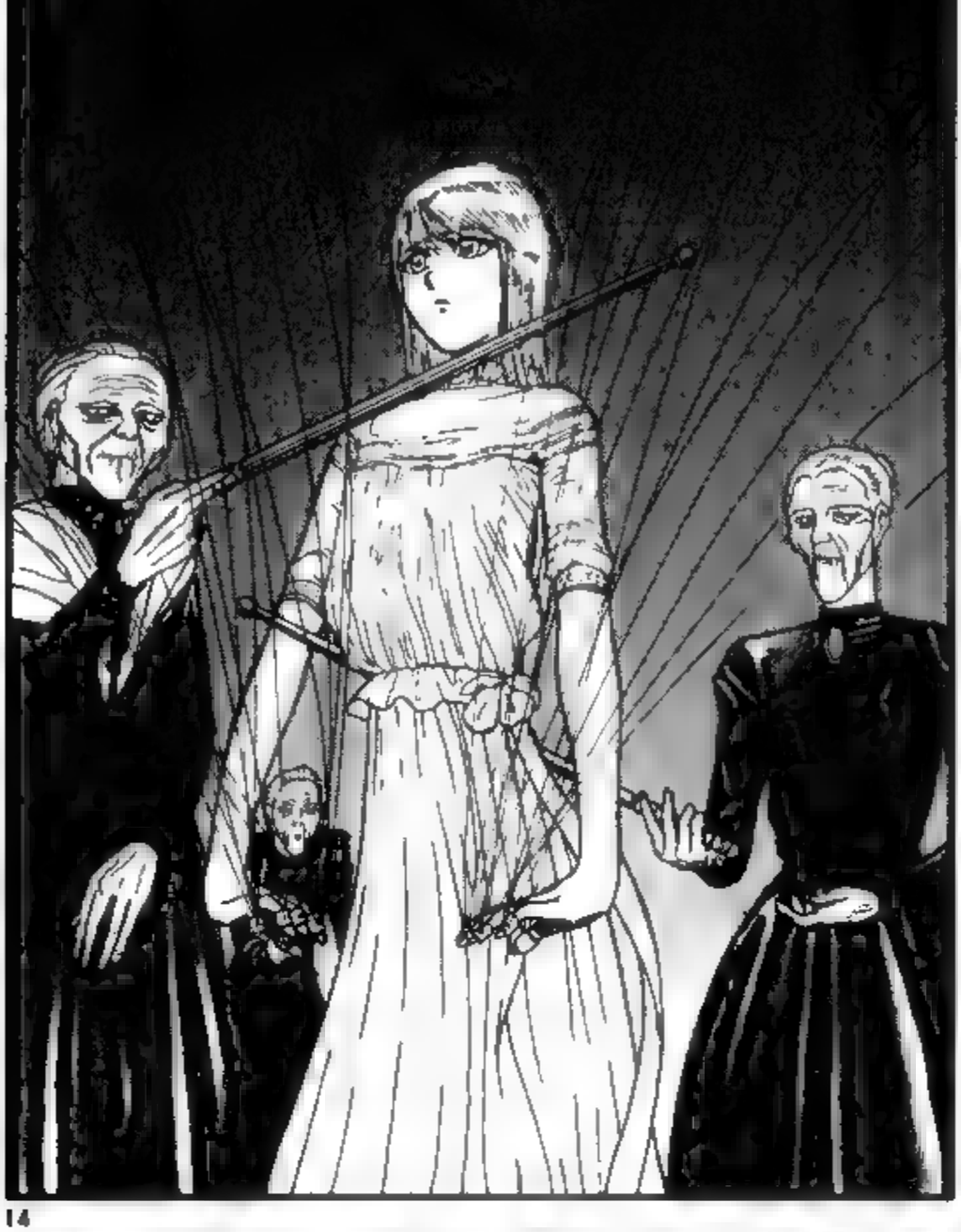






13





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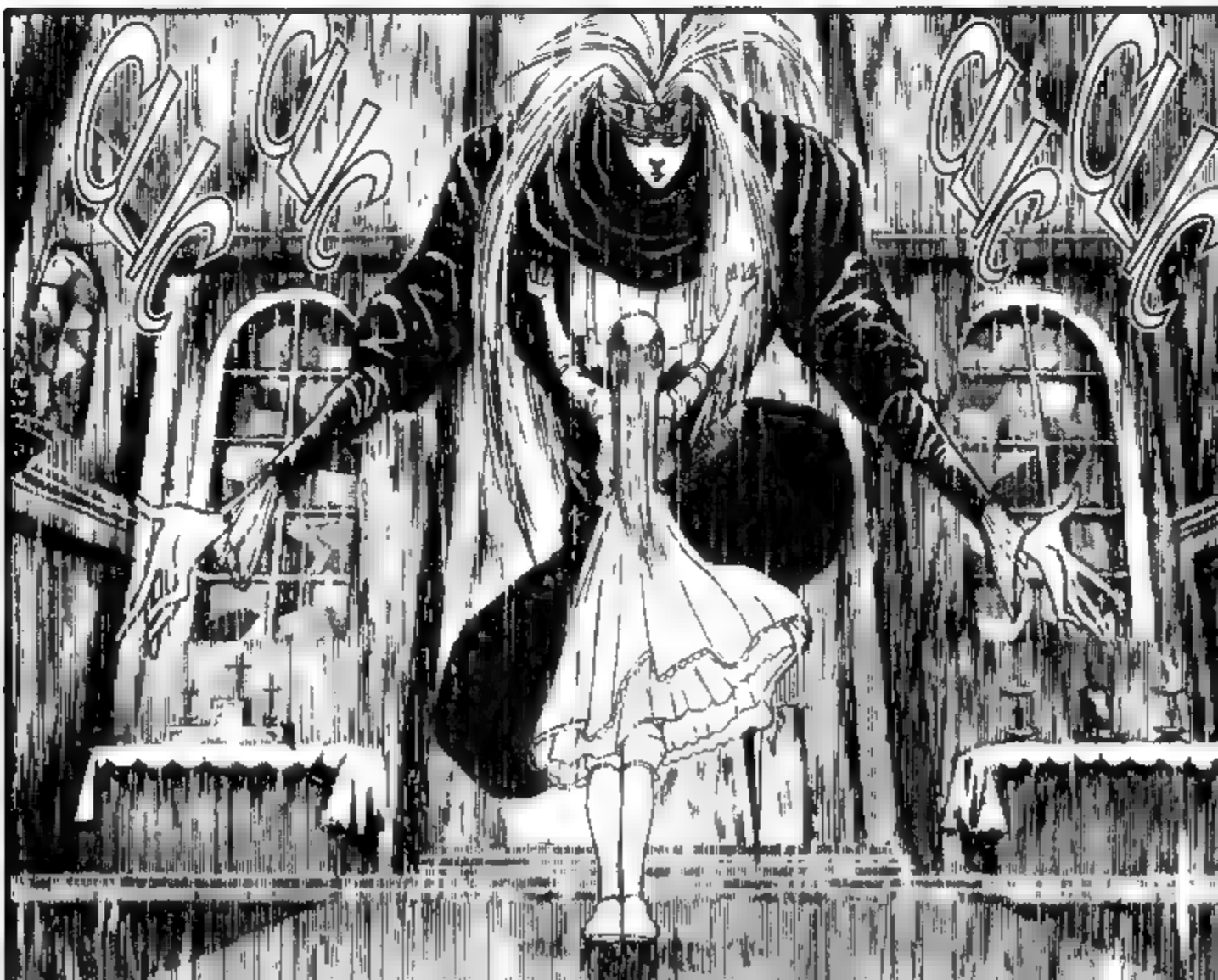
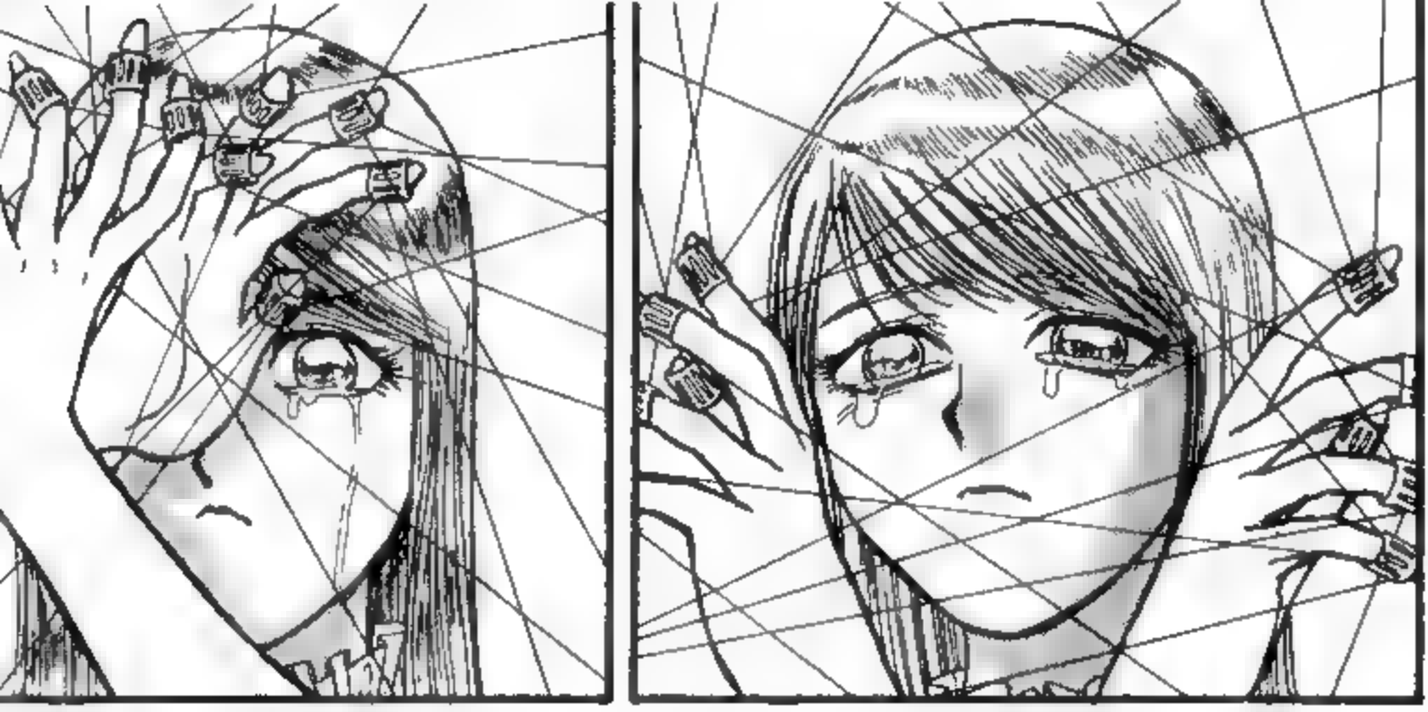


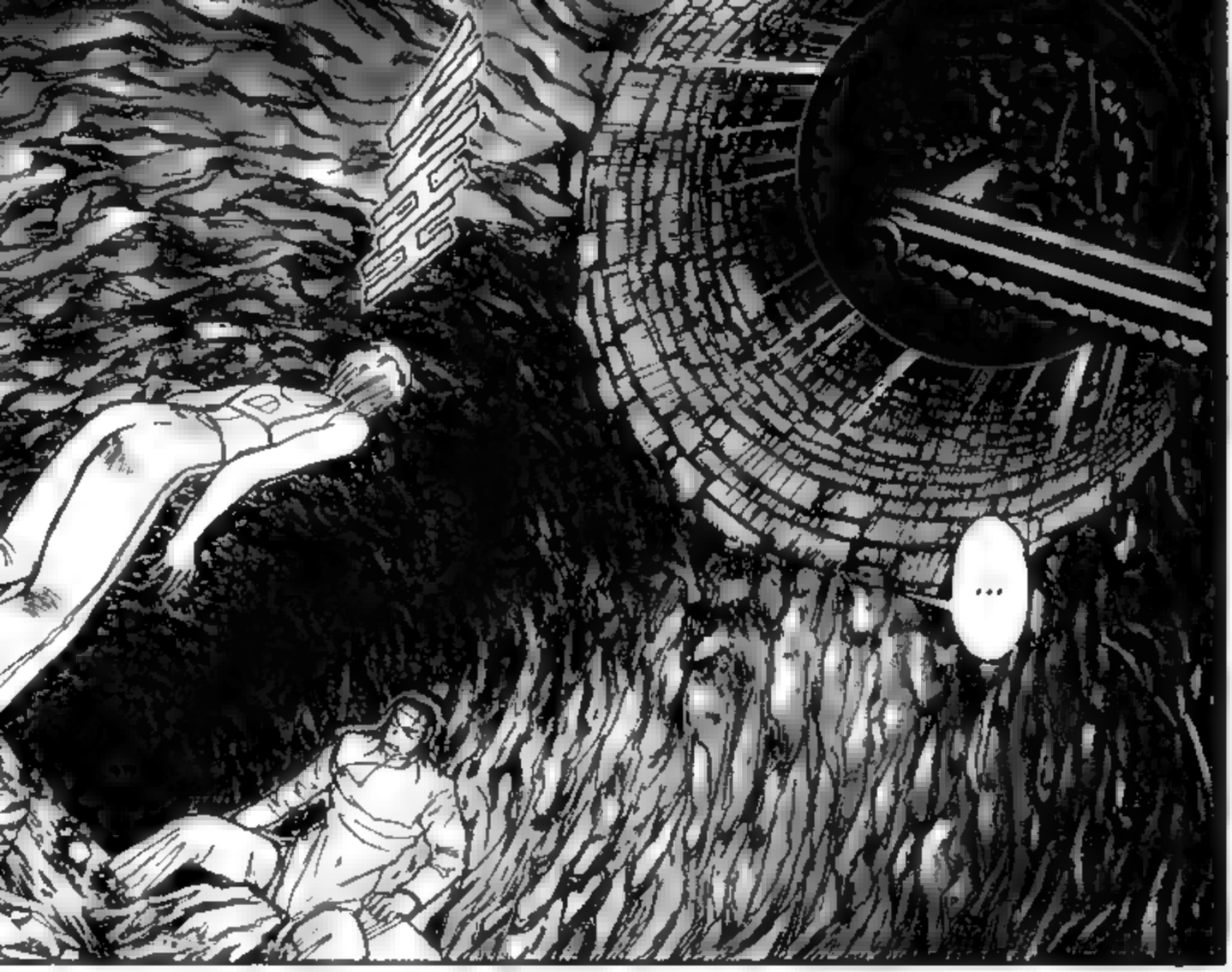


HHH
HHH

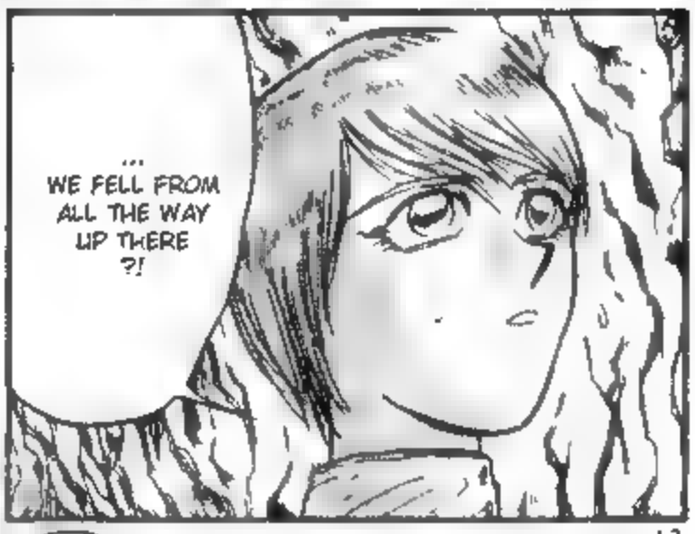
GRATE
GRATE
GRATE
GRATE
THAT'S WEIRD ...
WHY IS SHE CRYING ?

... THEY'RE GONNA THINK I'M A PERVERT FOR SURE!
NN ...
IF I WERE TO KEEP BREATHING LIKE THAT, STARING AT HER..
AND MY CRISIS IS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE !!
I HAVE TO MAKE SOME-ONE LAUGH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE !!

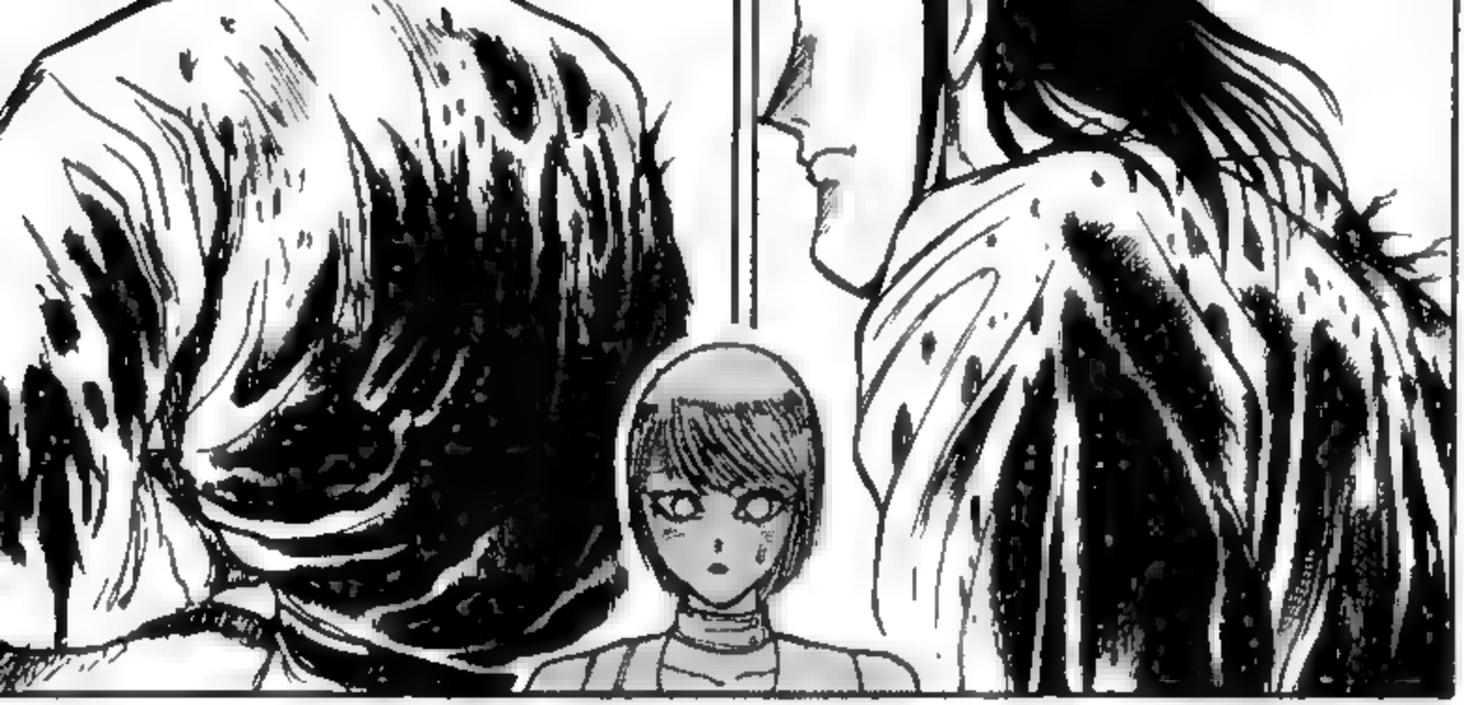
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO TO ME ?!
SPLAT


...

WHILE I'VE BEEN LOOKING AFTER YOU SINCE WE FELL!
"WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO TO ME ?!"
YOU SUDDENLY WAKE UP AND TELL ME ..


... WE FELL FROM ALL THE WAY UP THERE ?!

THAT IS QUITE FUNNY ..
I DON'T GET IT ...
WHY AIN'T I WOUNDED ?



BUT AS YOU'RE A PUPPET, THERE'S NO CHANCE I WOULD HAVE MADE SOMETHING TO YOU.
YES, I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO FALL WITH YOU ...

NARUMI ... THESE WOUNDS ...

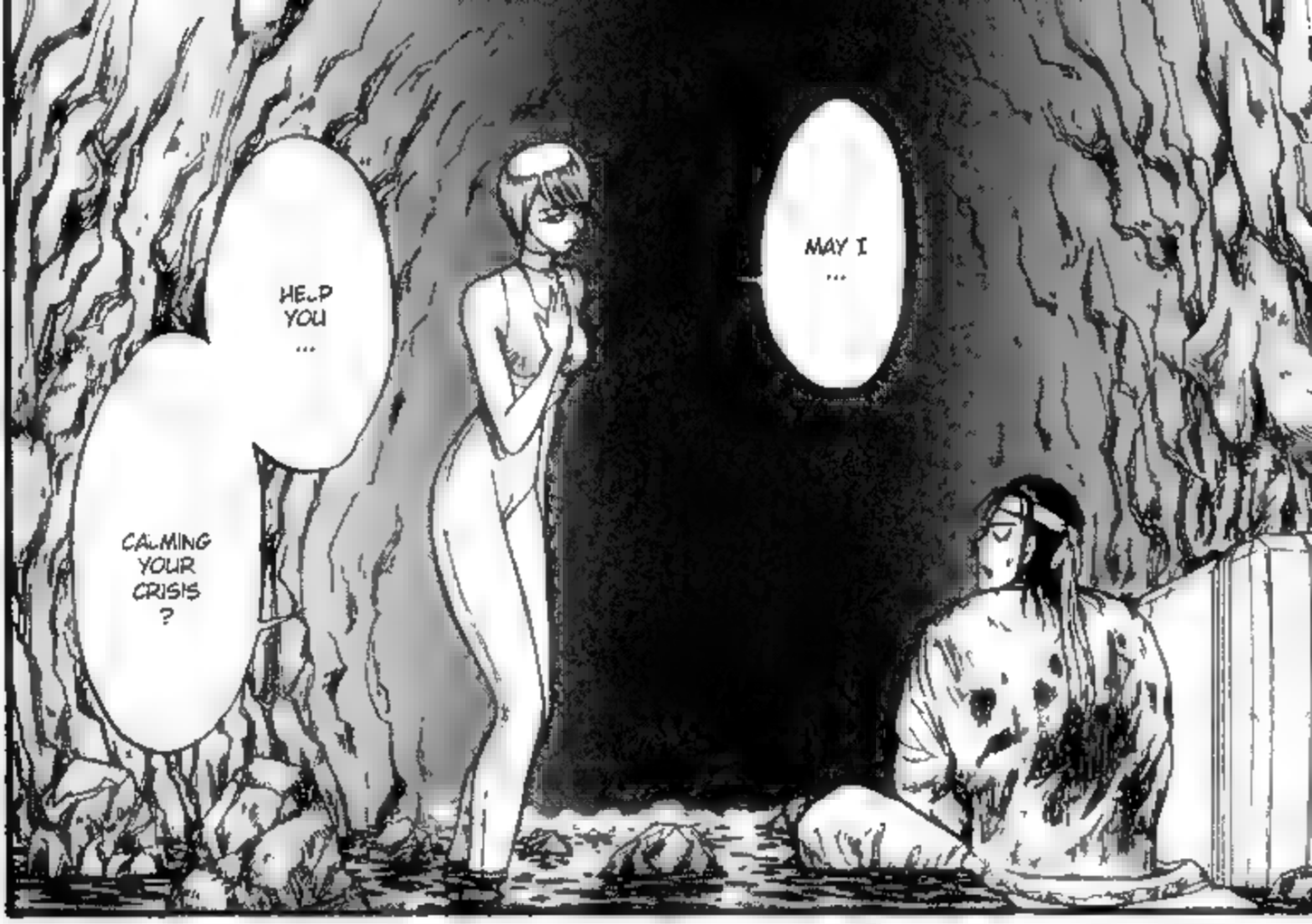
I...

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A CRISIS. YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN WHAT IT DOES TO ME ...
I CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE
... WHY IS THAT ?
NOW'S MY TURN ...
TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE!

JUST GO! WE'RE WASTING TIME.
SPLASH
MASARU ISN'T HERE. THEREFORE, THERE'S NOBODY I COULD MAKE LAUGH.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR
GO RESCUE HIM!!

I'M WORRIED ABOUT ... MASARU ...
GO QUICKLY ...


MAY I ...
HELP YOU ...
CALMING YOUR CRISIS ?

THEY'RE BOTH ALIVE !!

THEY'RE ALIVE!
IT'S NARUMI !
AND SHIROGANE !

MAY I

HE-P YUU

BY LAUGHING FOR YUU ?

ACT 1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 15 : "ACTION"

WE CAN TRY

HUM

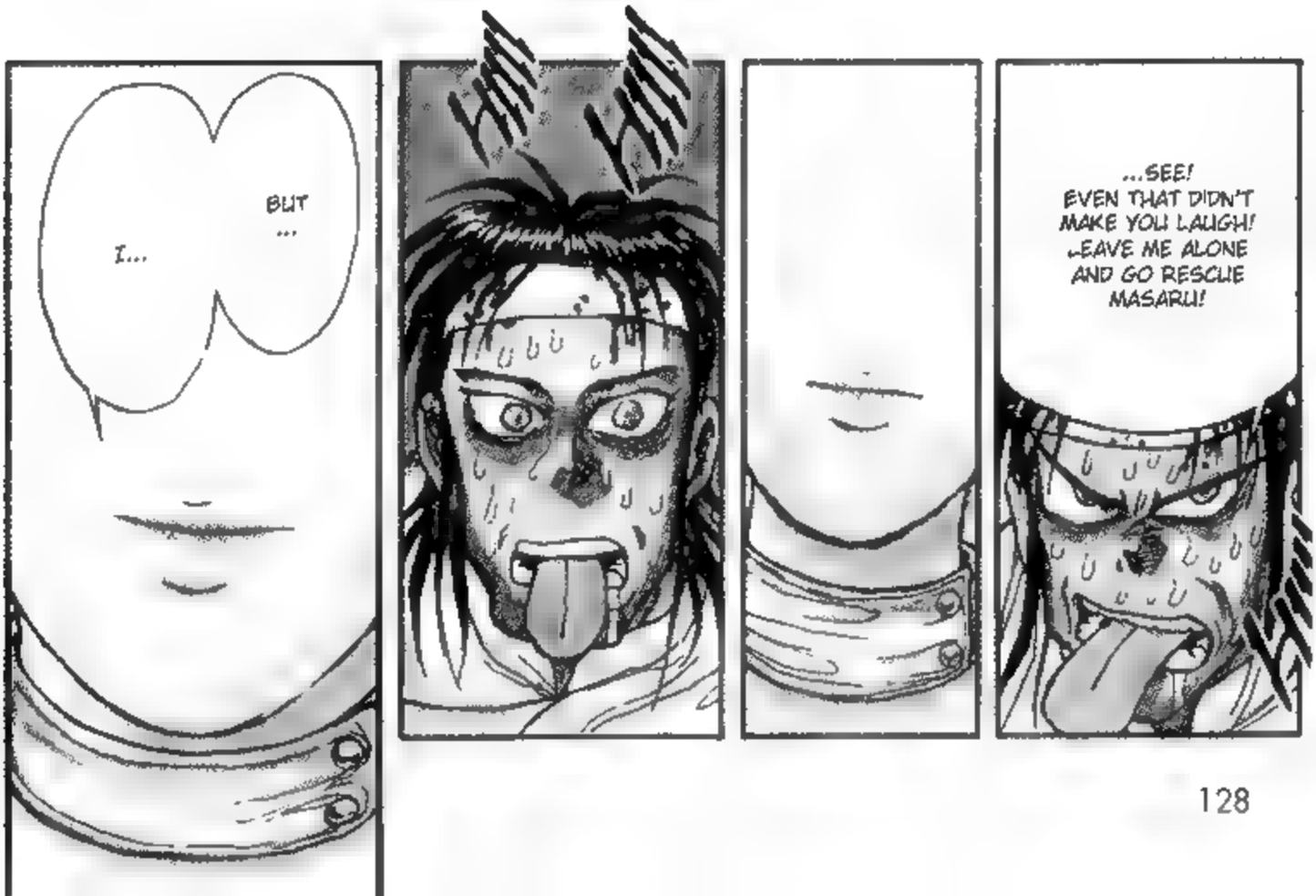
YES

HUM HUM HUM

THAT'S THE REALLY FIRST TIME!
.. YOU JUST SAID "I'M SORRY" ?
I KNEW BEFORE STARTING WE HADN'T GOT ANY CHANCE!
FORGET IT!
I'M SORRY ...
YOU FELL WITH ME TO PROTECT ME AND YOU WERE THE ONE WOUNDED ...
GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE ...
HAA.. GO AWAY ..
I'M GONNA LAUGH AT ANY COST !!
THAT'S WHY ...
2
TOO SERIOUS ...
YOU'RE ..

OF COURSE NOT! THAT'S GOOD
TO BE SERIOUS
BOBOM
DOES IT DISTURB YOU?
LISTEN CAREFULLY!
YES
DAMN IT! DISEASE!! IT DRIVES ME CRAZY
LISTEN TO THAT, IT'S GONNA BE REALLY FUNNY!
SORRY SHIROGANE, YOU'LL SEE THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO FOR ME...

ACT 1 : MASARU
CHAPTER 15 : "ACTION"



I THINK WHAT YOU SAID IS NEITHER FUNNY NOR RIDICULOUS

UNBELIEVABLE! MY CRISIS HAS SUDDENLY STOPPED!
WHAT ?!
FLUTTER

GLOOPS
BUBBLE

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Edited by vensu
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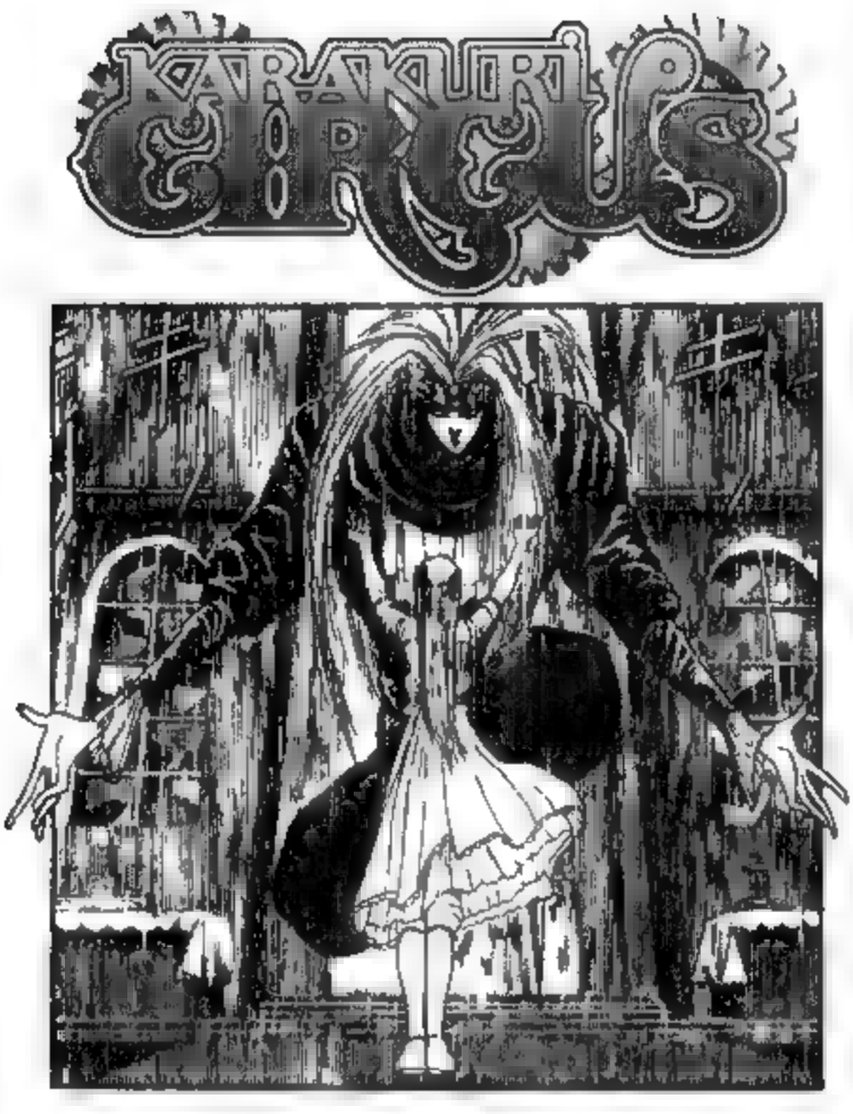
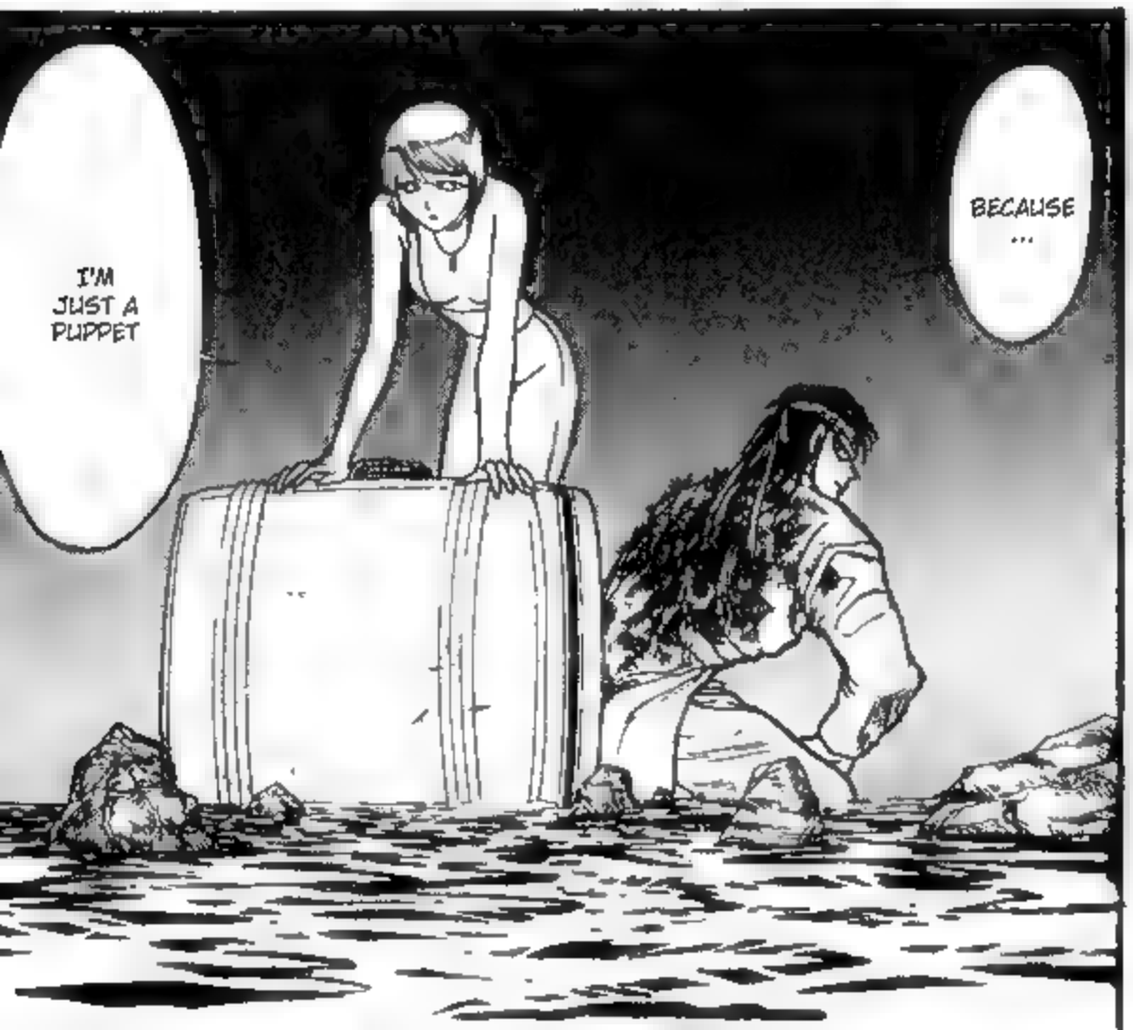


SORRY
...
FALTER

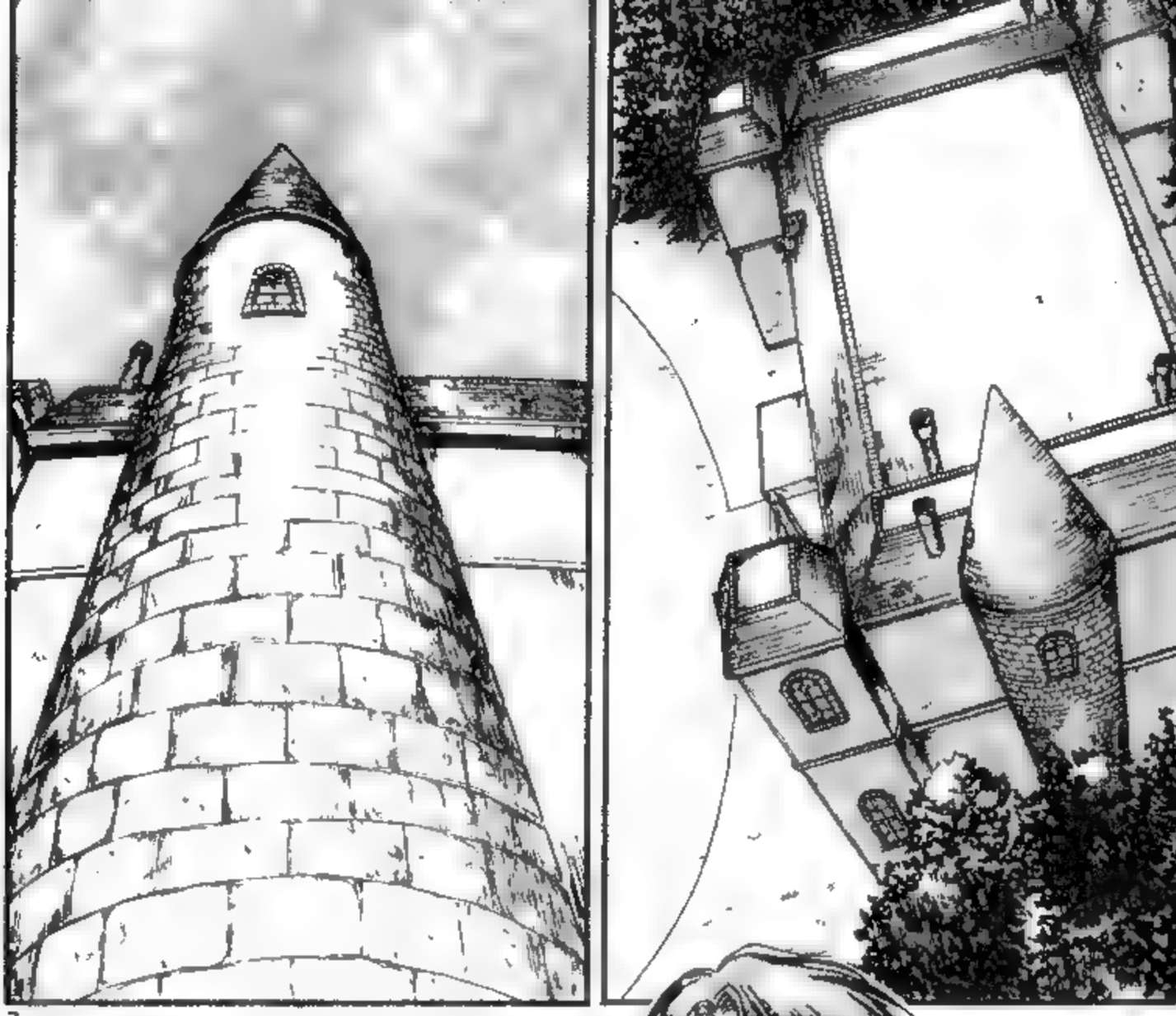
AND MY HEART'S BEATING LIKE CRAZY !
BUT I FEEL PRESSURED . .
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

WAS MY JOKE FUNNY ?
NO! IT WORKED REALLY WELL !
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE

I TRIED TO SMILE A LITTLE ...
BUT IT'S NOT REALLY EFFECTIVE


I'M JUST A PUPPET
BECAUSE ...

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LAUGH ...



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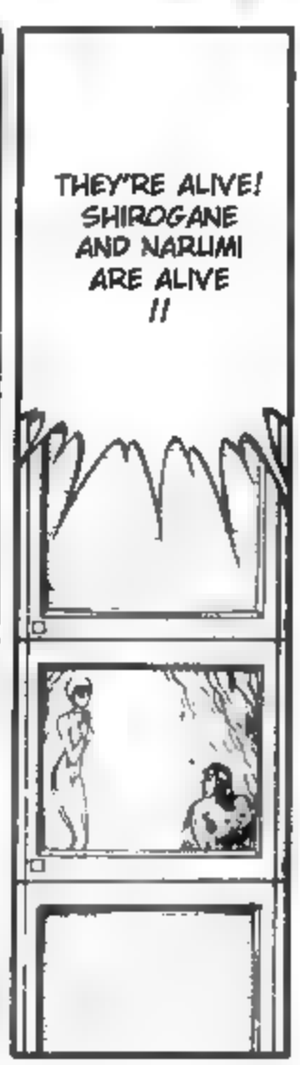


OPEN QUICKLY THE LOCK! FILL THE TUNNELS WITH WATER!
THEY'RE NOT EVEN DEAD AFTER FALLING FROM SO HIGH ?!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CRUEL ?!
STOP IT!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M DOING THIS !!
SPLAT
THEY CAME TO RESCUE ME SO...
DAH

BLING

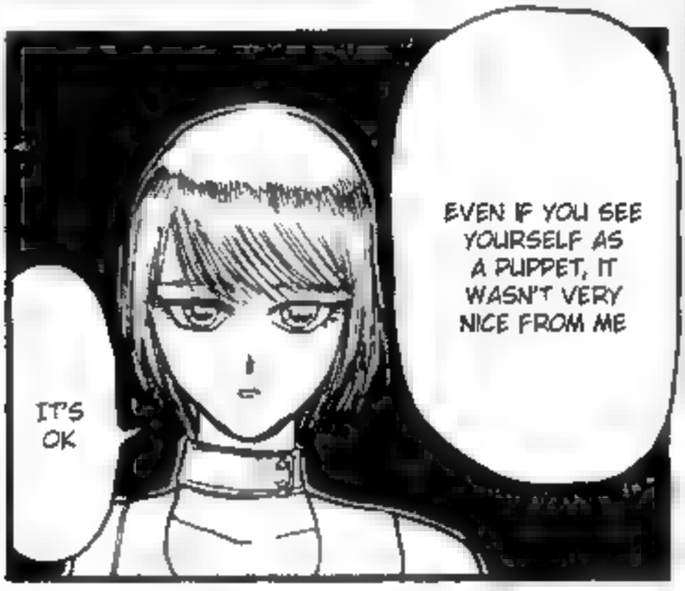
GOOHH
THAT YOU'LL FINALLY ACCEPT TO BECOME MY SON
THEN, YOU'LL BE SO DESPERATE ..
I WANT YOU TO SEE THEIR DEATH WITH YOUR OWN EYES!

BEEP
YES, SIR!
GO ON!
TAN

THEY FELL HERE JUST LIKE US ...
THESE WERE PUPPETS FROM THE ASHIHANA CLAN...
SPLASH!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE QUICKLY AND RESCUE HIM
THE ASSASSINS HAVE PROBABLY NOT REACHED MASARU YET
YEAH... THANKS TO YOU ...
ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHY
HAS YOUR CRISIS REALLY CALMED DOWN ?
YES ?
NARUMI ..

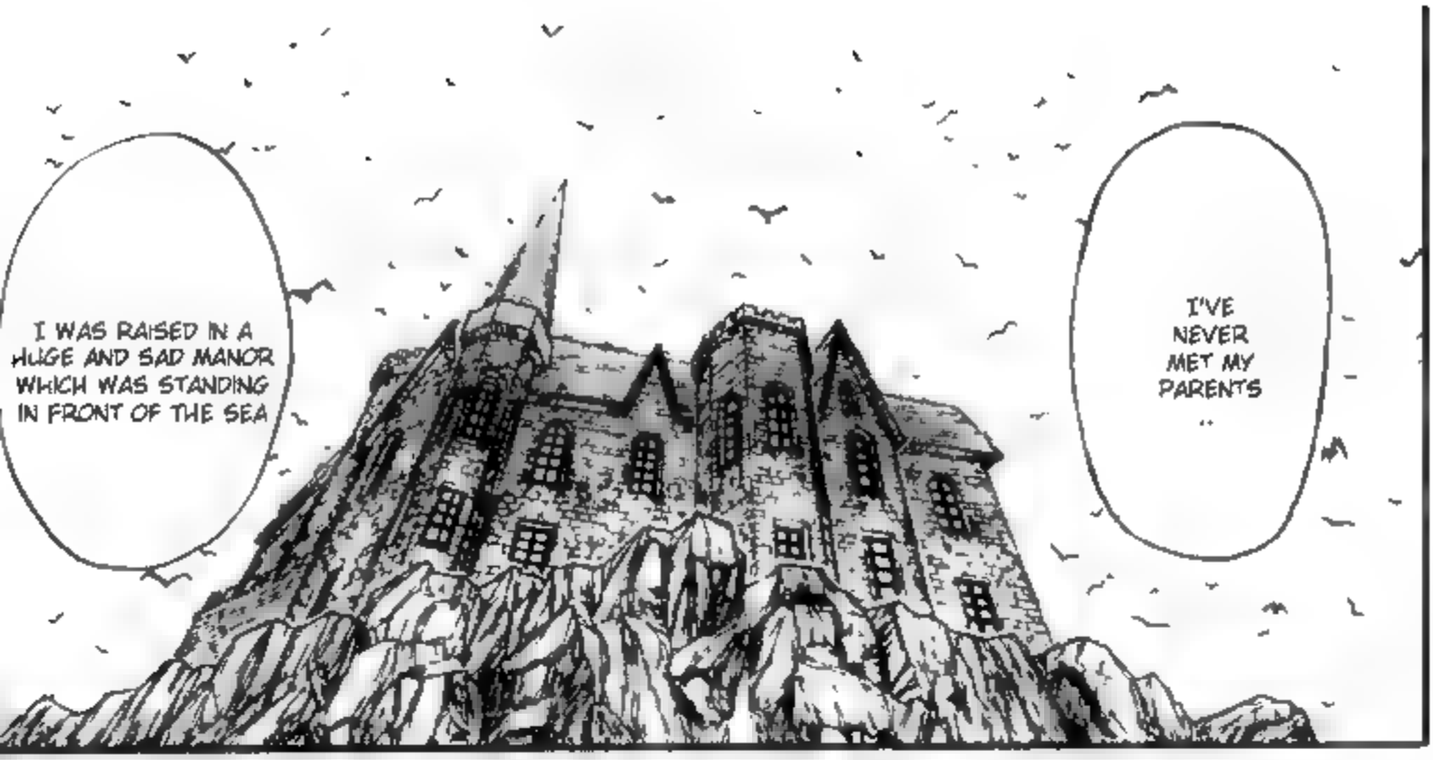
LISTEN ...
SHIROGANE ...
FUMU
FUMU
FUMU

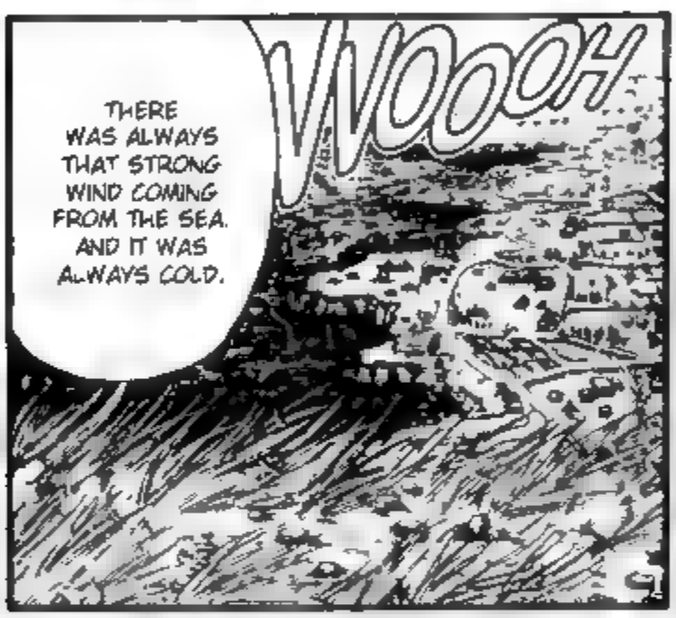
IN FRONT OF MASARU YOU'RE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON
IT'S JUST THAT YOU ALMOST DON'T SHOW ANY FEELINGS.
HOWEVER ...

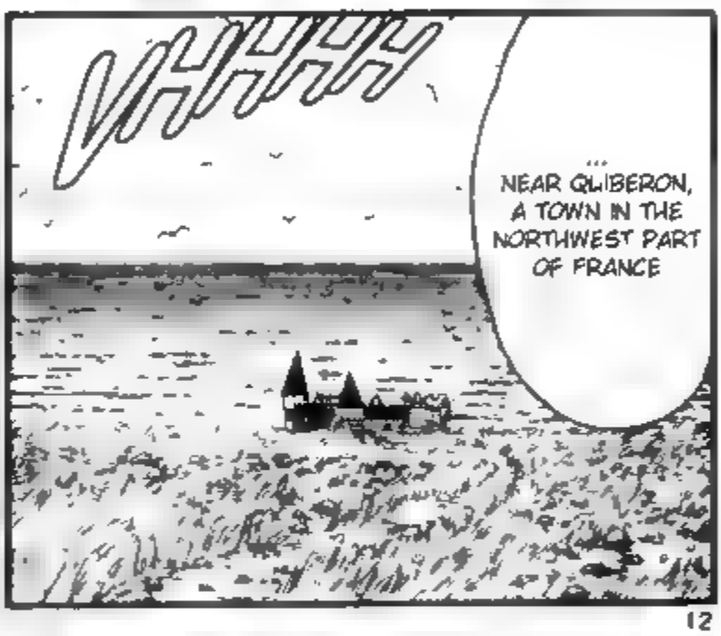

IT'S OK
EVEN IF YOU SEE YOURSELF AS A PUPPET, IT WASN'T VERY NICE FROM ME

FOR CALLING YOU A "PUPPET"
I WANTED ...
TO APOLOGIZE ..

I'M... JUST A HUMAN PUPPET
I KNOW WELL ...
SCHh


I WAS RAISED IN A HUGE AND SAD MANOR WHICH WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF THE SEA
I'VE NEVER MET MY PARENTS ..


WOOOH
THERE WAS ALWAYS THAT STRONG WIND COMING FROM THE SEA. AND IT WAS ALWAYS COLD.


VHHH
... NEAR QUIBERON, A TOWN IN THE NORTHWEST PART OF FRANCE

12

YOUR WRISTS AREN'T FLEXIBLE ENOUGH! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU ?!

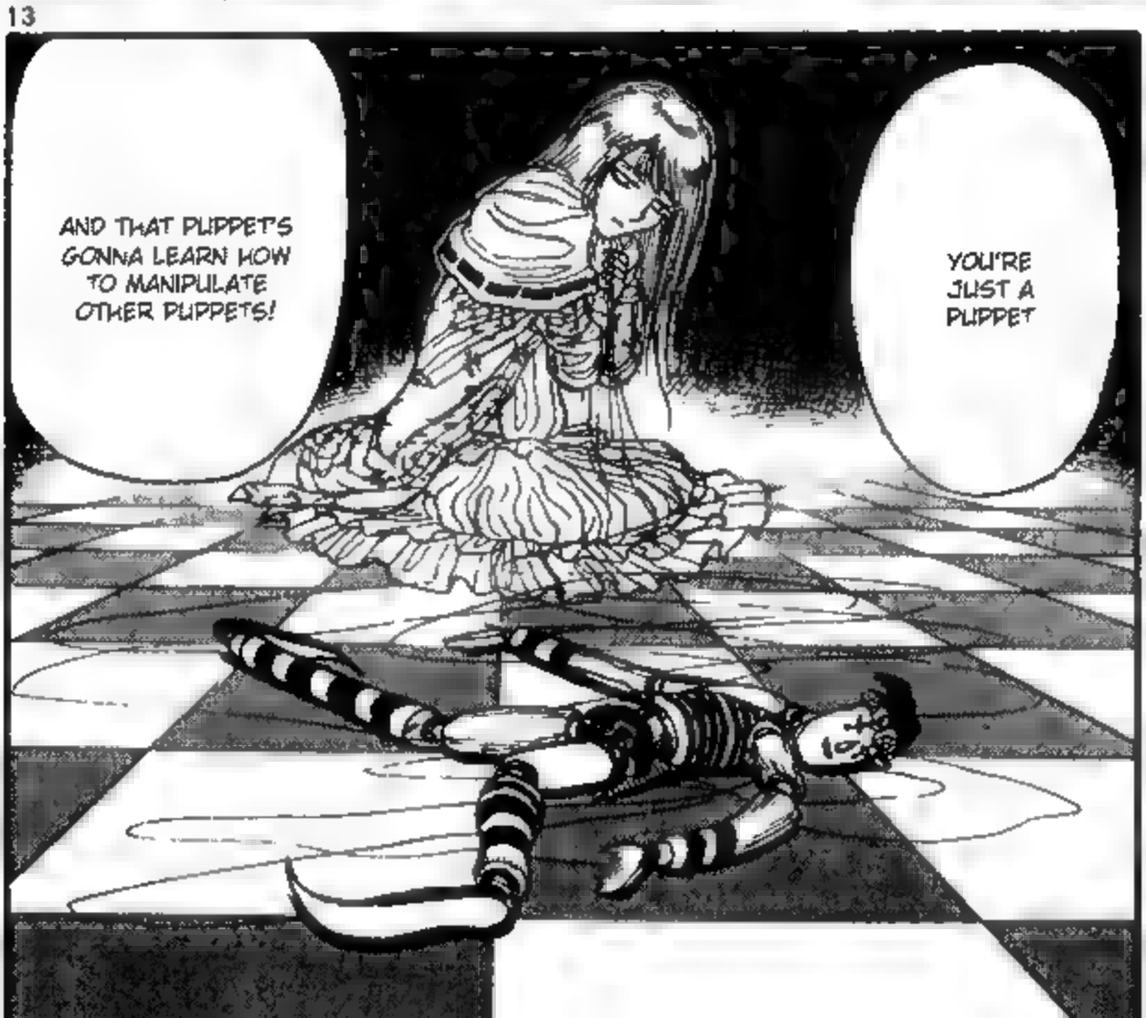
I'VE BEEN TAUGHT HOW TO MANIPULATE PUPPETS ..
SINCE MY EARLY CHILDHOOD ...

THREE OLD WOMEN WERE THERE TO TAKE CARE OF ME. THEY FED ME, DRESSED ME ... AND THAUGHT ME THE ART OF MANIPULATING PUPPETS
GET UP! AND START OVER!

YOU MUST ERASE THAT FEELING FROM YOUR LIFE ...
AND FORGET YOUR NAME TOO

ARE YOU FEELING PAIN ELEONORE ?
THEY WERE ALWAYS REPEATING THE SAME THING ...

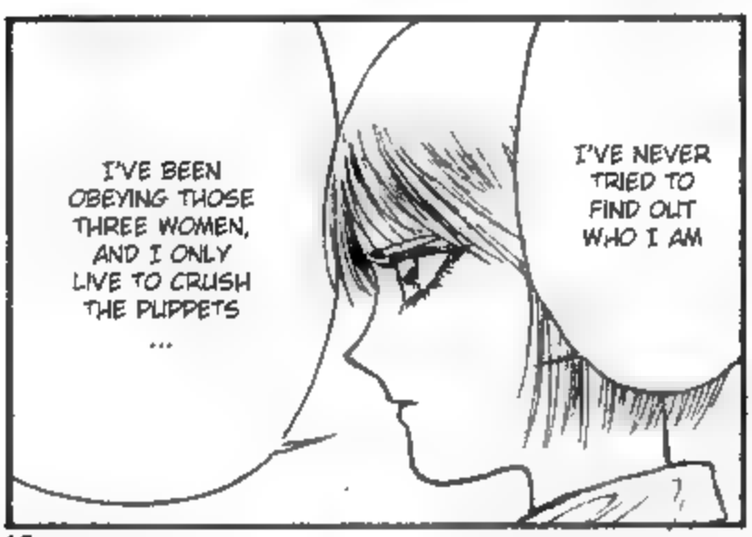
13


AND THAT PUPPET'S GONNA LEARN HOW TO MANIPULATE OTHER PUPPETS!
YOU'RE JUST A PUPPET

FORGET JOY, SADNESS... FORGET ALL THE FEELINGS YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR!

I'M SHIROGANE ..
THE PUPPET MASTER
IT'S NOT MINE ANYMORE
"ELEONORE"? THEN YOU'VE GOT A REAL NAME?!
AS A PUPPET MASTER, I'M SHIROGANE
I'M A LIVING PUPPET WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN A MISSION ..
I'M A "NATURAL BORN" PUPPET MASTER ..
14
WHAT ?
..AND WILL GO BACK TO LAND ...
AND THE PUPPET TO THE PUPPET
A "MISSION"? WHAT'S THAT? WHO WERE THESE THREE OLD WOMEN ?!
I'VE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY TOLD THESE WORDS ... I'VE BEEN RAISED FOR ONE SINGLE GOAL

MY MISSION S TO DESTROY
WITH MY "WIRE-PUPPET"
VERY SPECIAL PUPPETS MADE A LONG TIME AGO


I'VE BEEN OBEYING THOSE THREE WOMEN, AND I ONLY LIVE TO CRUSH THE PUPPETS ...
I'VE NEVER TRIED TO FIND OUT WHO I AM

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN ?
...
PERSONALLY

15

I THINK YOU'RE COMPLETELY WRONG!
FLAP

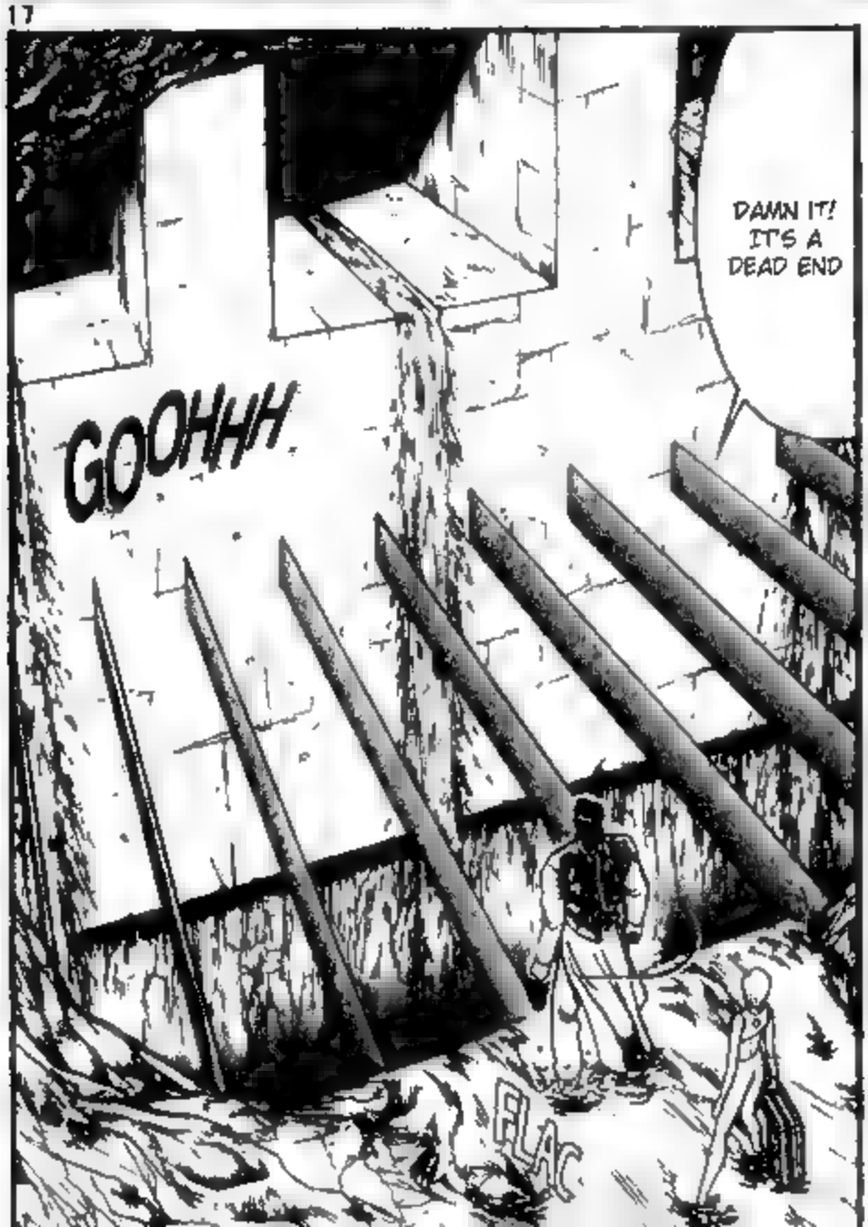
I'VE REALLY BECOME A PUPPET
I'VE LOST ALL MY HUMANITY

TO SEE MASARU LAUGHING IS A WONDERFUL THING! I THINK YOU'LL AGREE WITH ME.
OK
LISTEN ...
AH?
BUT ...
YOUR SMILE IS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF! THERE ARE STILL FEELINGS INSIDE YOU!

LISTEN CAREFULLY SHIROGANE !
A PUPPET WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO SMILE LIKE YOU DID A MOMENT AGO!
COME ON, IT'S OBVIOUS !
FLATCH
FLATCH

NARUMI ...

YOU'RE NOT A PUPPET !!


GOOHHH
DAMN IT! IT'S A DEAD END

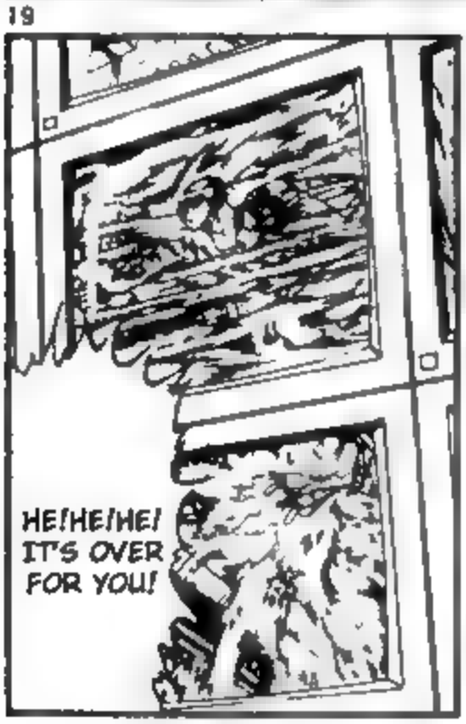
BUT... I...

AH
LOOK. THESE BLADES ARE SHARP AS RAZORS
WHOO! IS THIS A NATURAL CRACK ?
WWHHH
GOOOHH
THEY WANT TO CUT IN PIECES EVERYONE FALLING FROM ABOVE.
WATER !!
BRRROOM
!
WHAT'S THAT NOISE ?!
BRRRROM
DAH

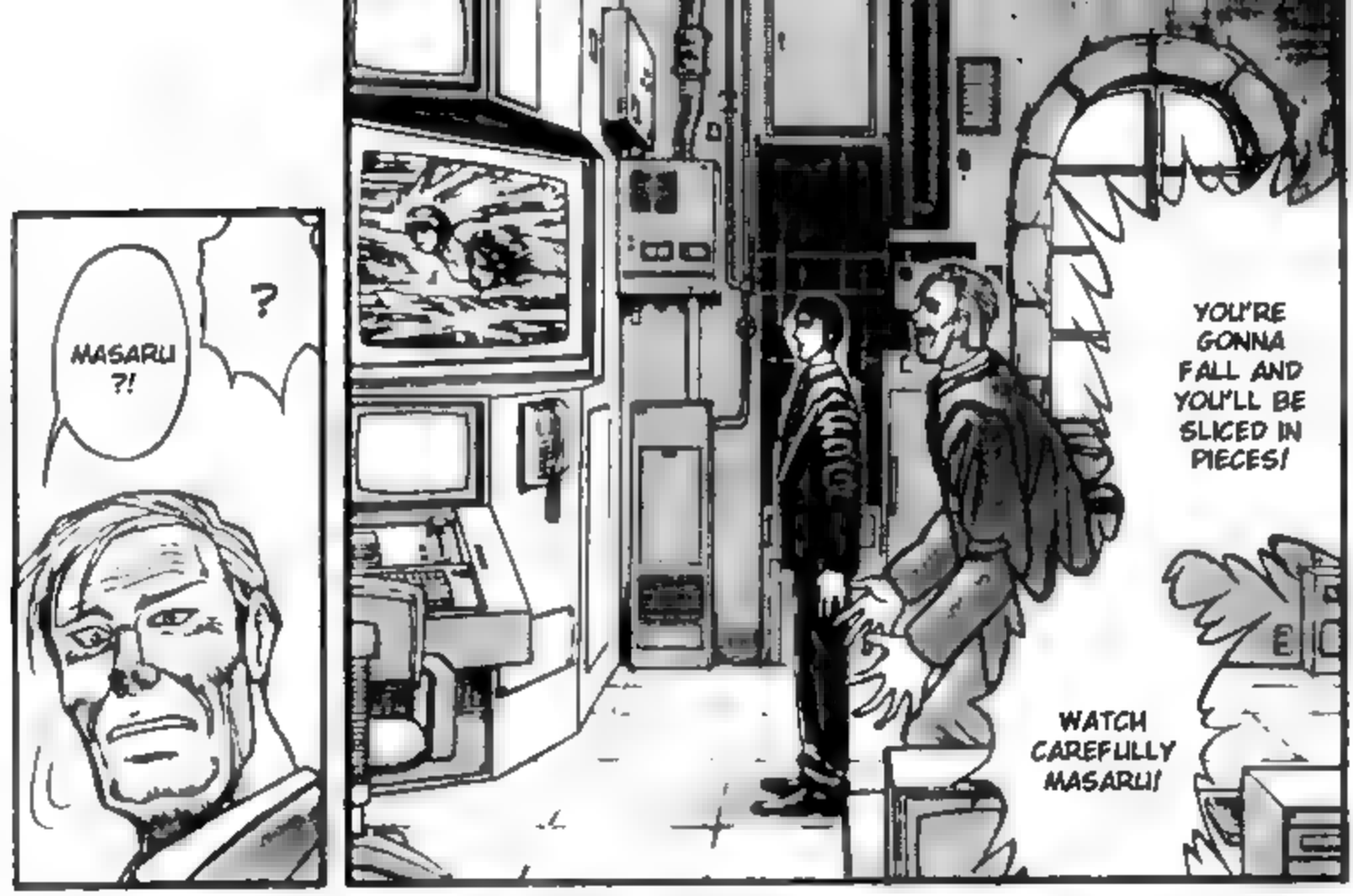
GAN

QUICK, NARUMI!
FUCK!

BRRRRRO
OMN


HE!HE!HE!
IT'S OVER
FOR YOU!

SPLA
SCHHH


MASARU ?!
?
YOU'RE GONNA FALL AND YOU'LL BE SLICED IN PIECES!
WATCH CAREFULLY MASARU!

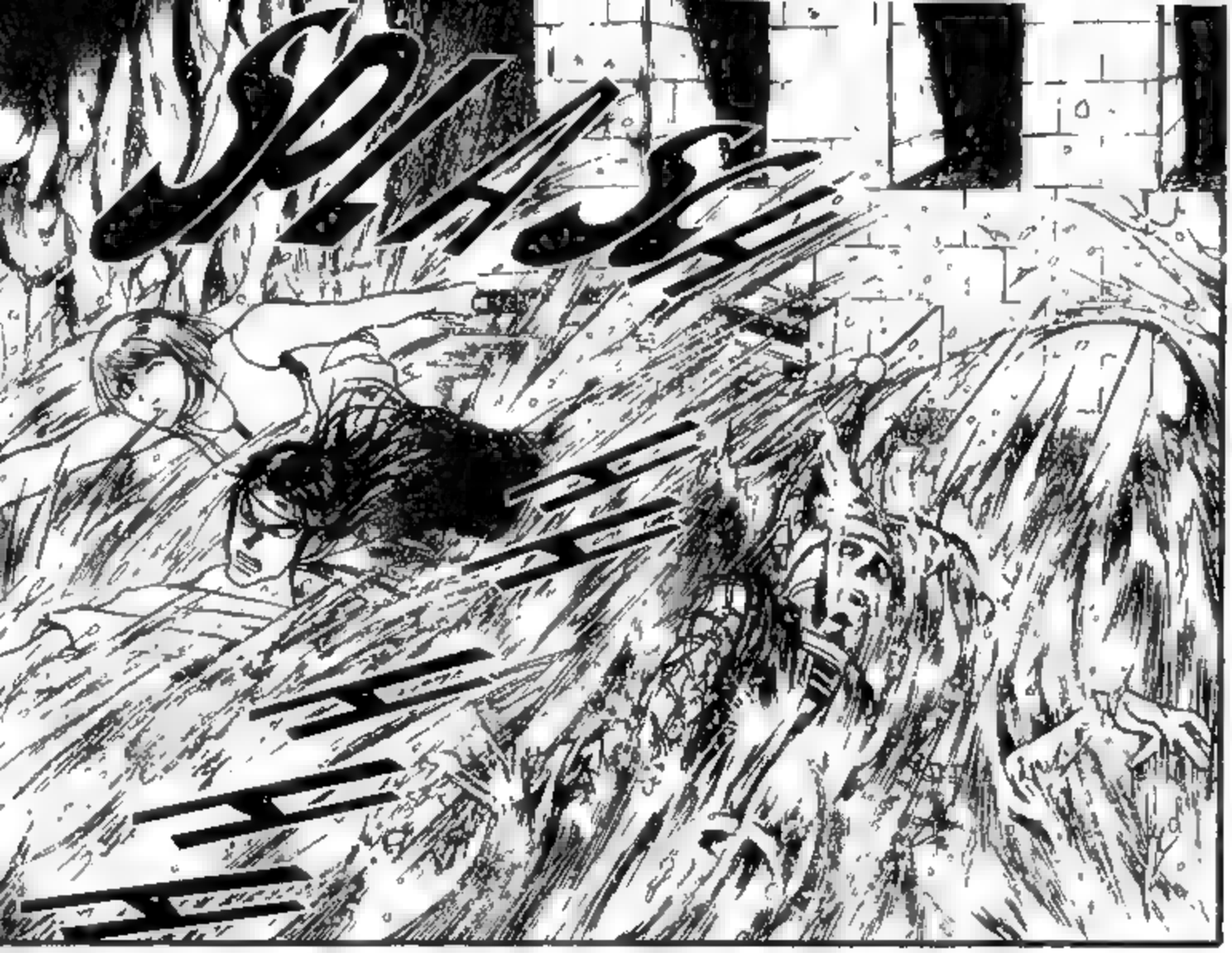
OSCHAAH
HEEYY! WHAT THE HELL...

SCE

I HAVE TO STOP THE WATER!
OTHERWISE THEY'RE BOTH GONNA DIE!
TA
TA

LET OFF THAT HANDLE IMMEDIATELY LITTLE BRAT !!

COME ON!!



ACT I : MASARU

CHAPTER SIXTEEN : "UP AND DOWN"

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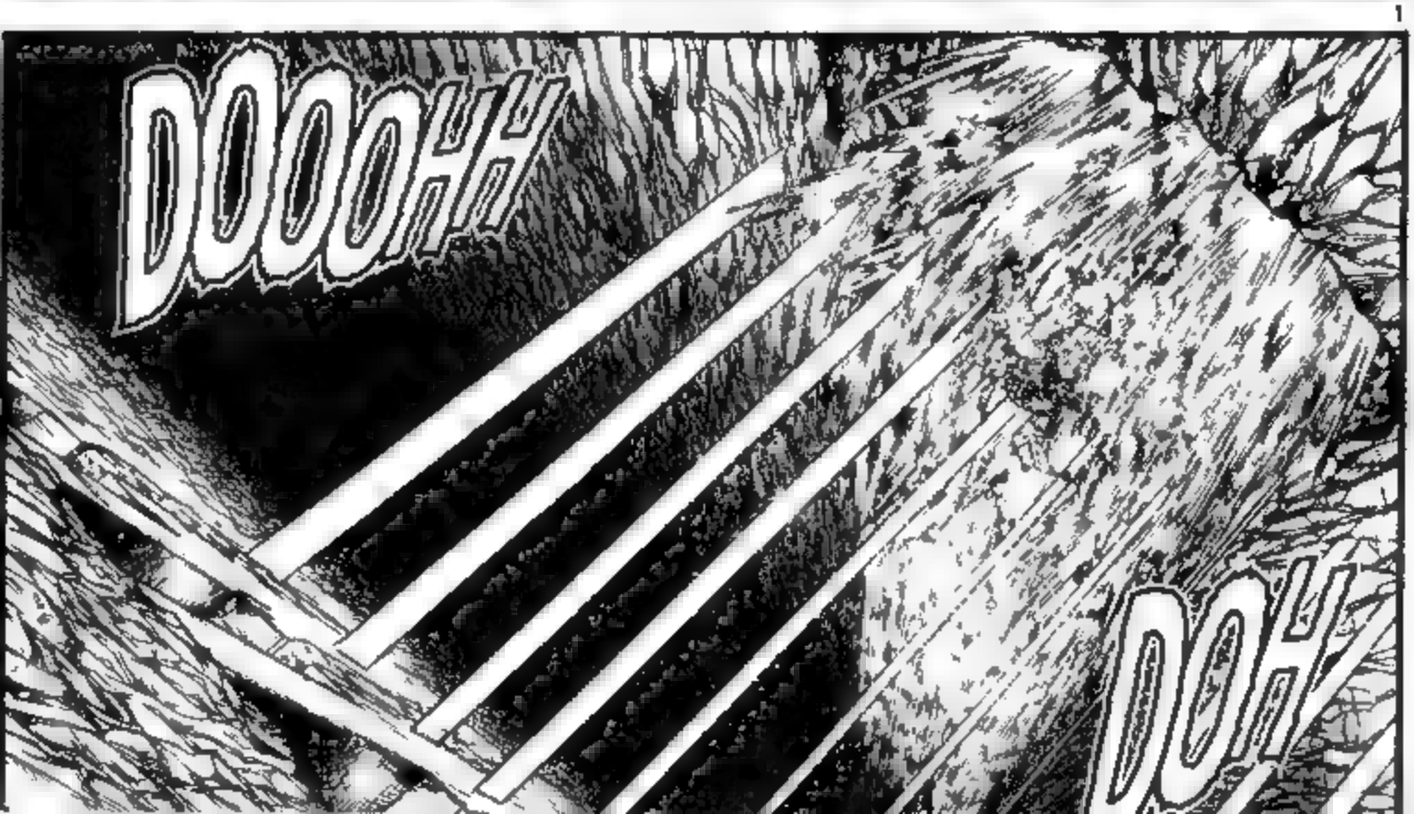


SLING

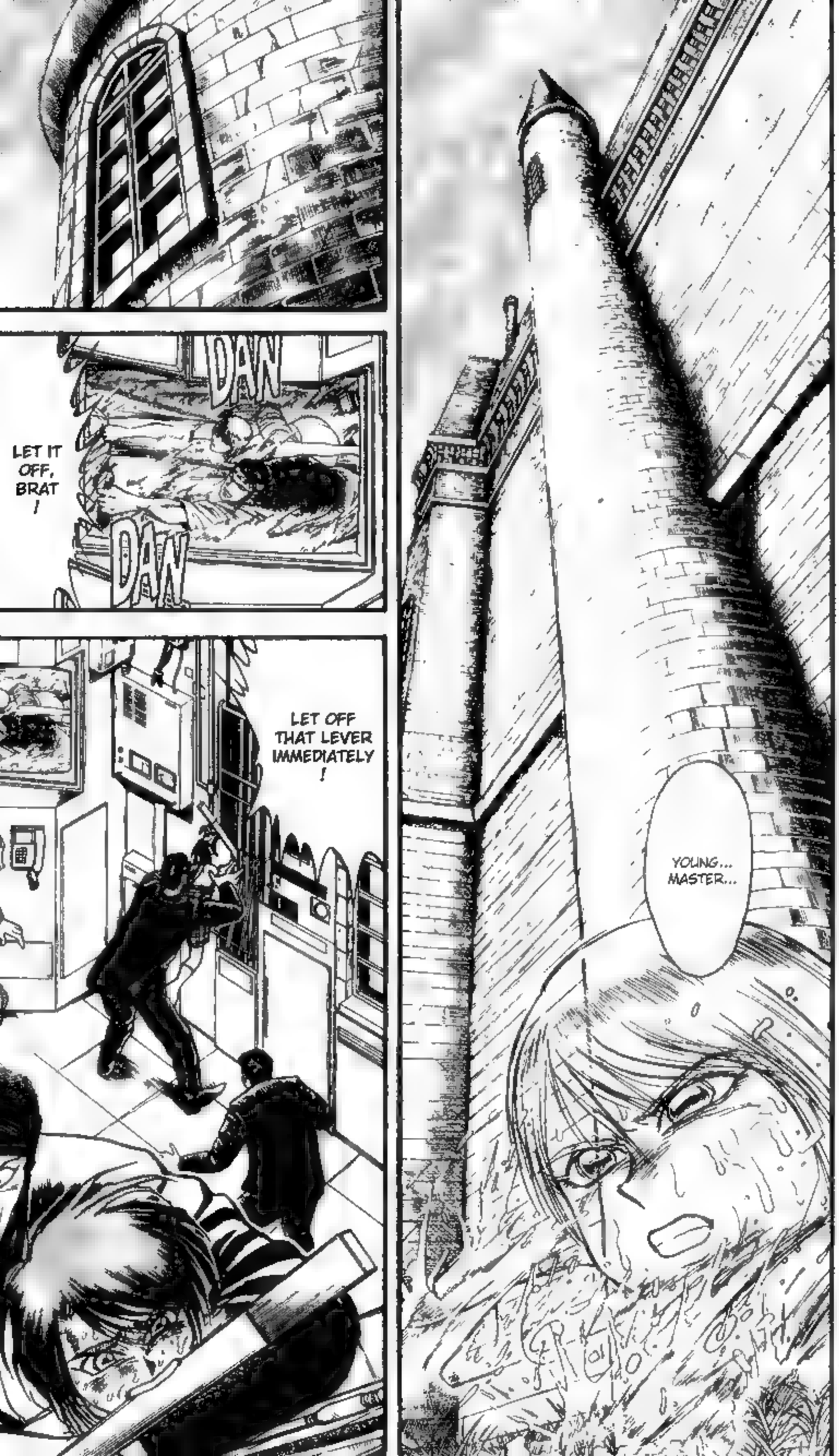
DOO

HANG ON FIRM ... SHIROGANE ...

2

YOU SWEAR TO RESCUE MASARU
YOU MUSTN'T GIVE UP !

I CAN'T ...


DAN
DAN
LET IT OFF, BRAT !
LET OFF THAT LEVER IMMEDIATELY !
YOUNG... MASTER...

NOBODY EVER DID THAT!

THEY CARED ABOUT ME!

I DON'T WANT ...

THEM TO DIE!

HE'S POSSESSED!

AS SOON AS HE SAW THE OTHER TWO IN DANGER, HE WENT CRAZY!

AND THEY EVEN CAME HERE TO RESCUE ME!

UN-BELIEV-ABLE

I HAD NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS BEFORE!

HE'S GOT BRUISES ALL OVER HIS BODY
HE'S GOT HIS HANDS TIGHTENED

I'D LIKE TO UNDERSTAND THAT!
HOW SUCH A SMALL BODY CAN BE SO STRONG ?!

...
NNN
...
GHH
YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA SAVE THEM MASARU ?!

ALLOW THAT !
I WON'T ...
CLONG

BADADA
THE LOCK'S GONNA CLOSE DOWN !
AAH
CLA

BOMF

SAH
TAN
TAN TAN

SBAM

OOH
OOHH

FLAP

NARUMI
...
I THINK I...
THE FLOW SEEMS TO BE WEAKENING
OSH
HHH

NOOO!

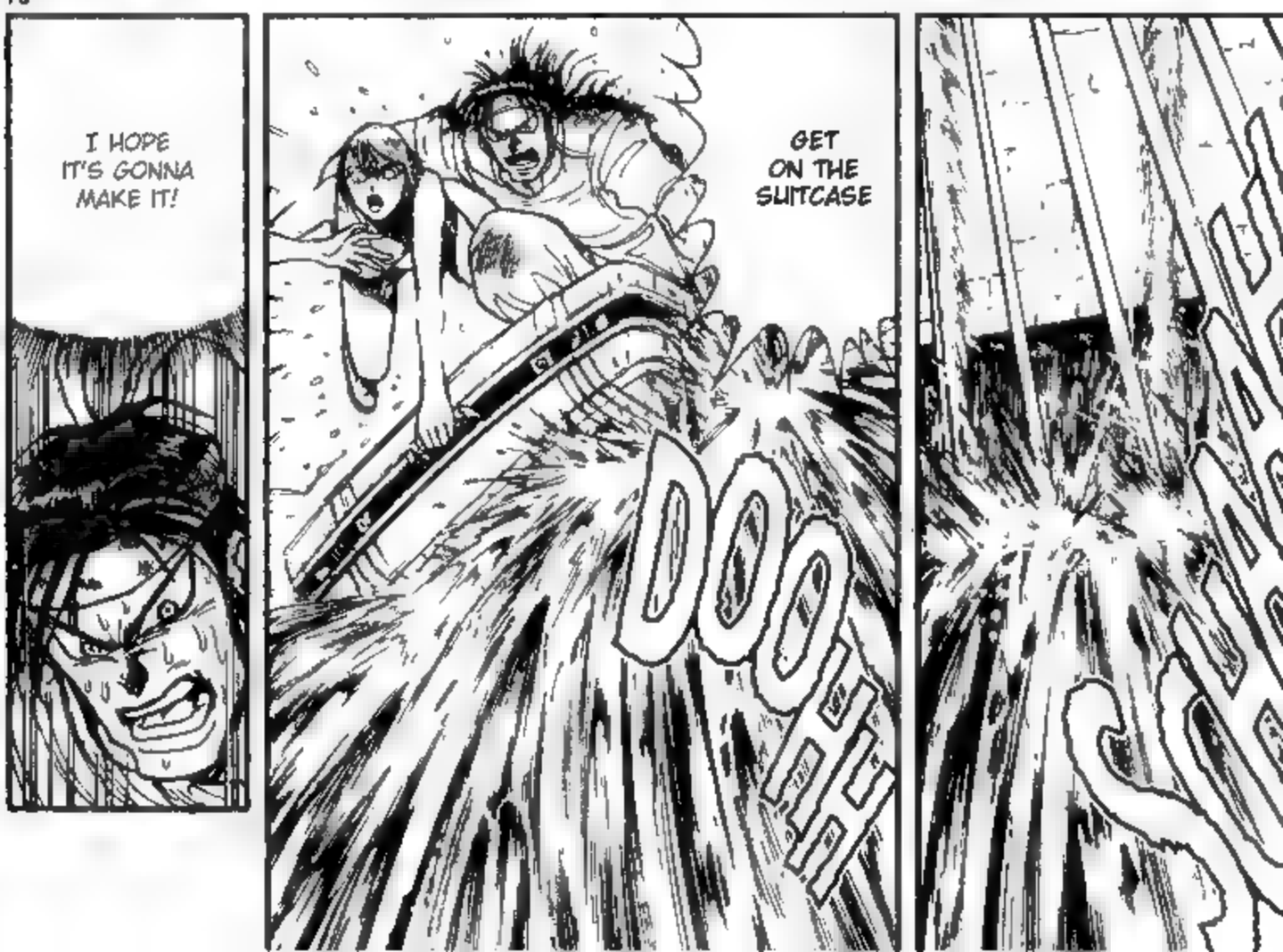
THERE HAS TO BE A WAY OUT !

WE MUSTN'T GIVE UP !

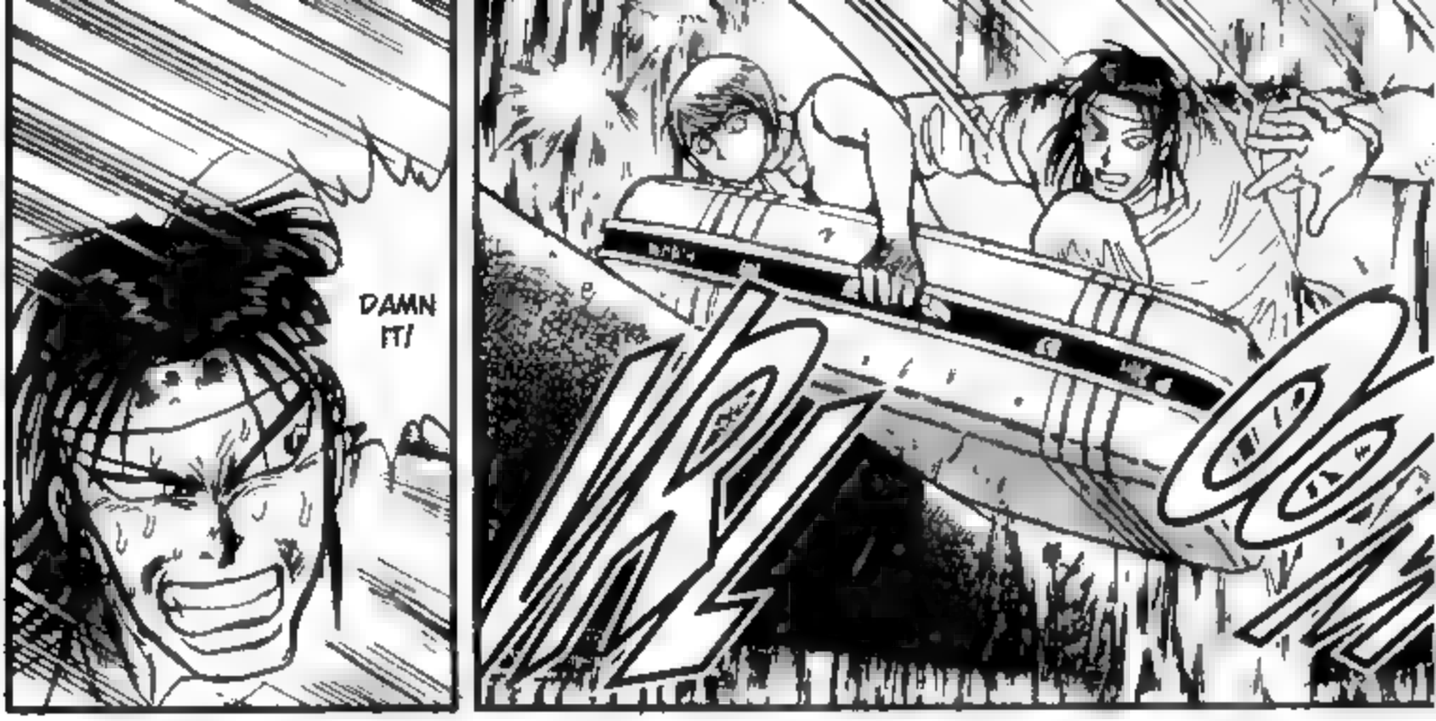
SCHAAH

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?
DOH
DOH
HM?
THAT'S A RISKY ONE
WE HAVE TO GIVE IT ALL AT ONCE
DOH
DOH
WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF
IT DEPENDS ON...
TRUST ME?
DO YOU ...

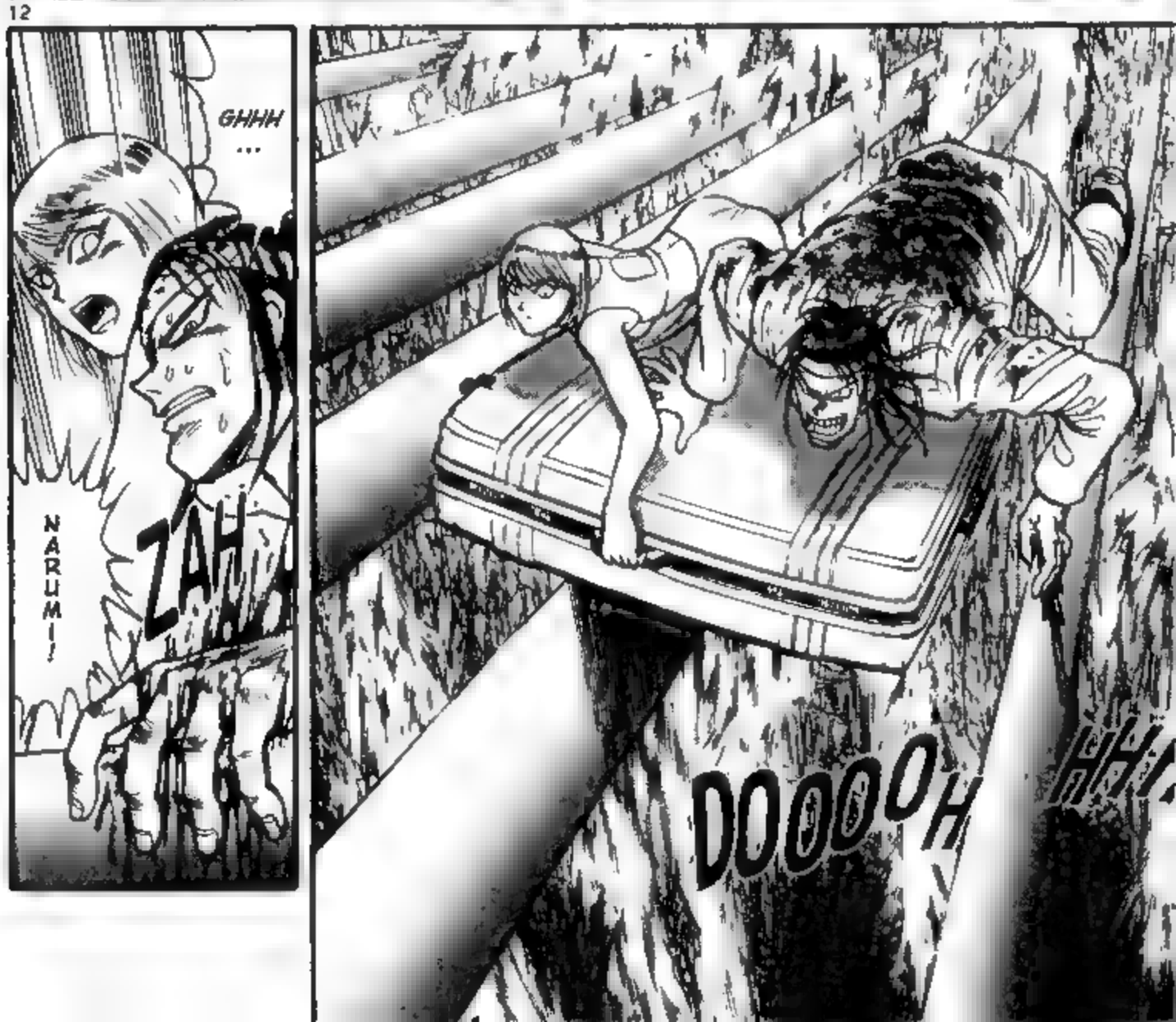
BANG!
YES!


I HOPE IT'S GONNA MAKE IT!
GET ON THE SUITCASE
DOOH!

GOOHH
THERE IT IS !
THE SPACE BETWEEN EACH BLADE IS AROUND 1 METER
WITH A BIT OF LUCK
GOOHH

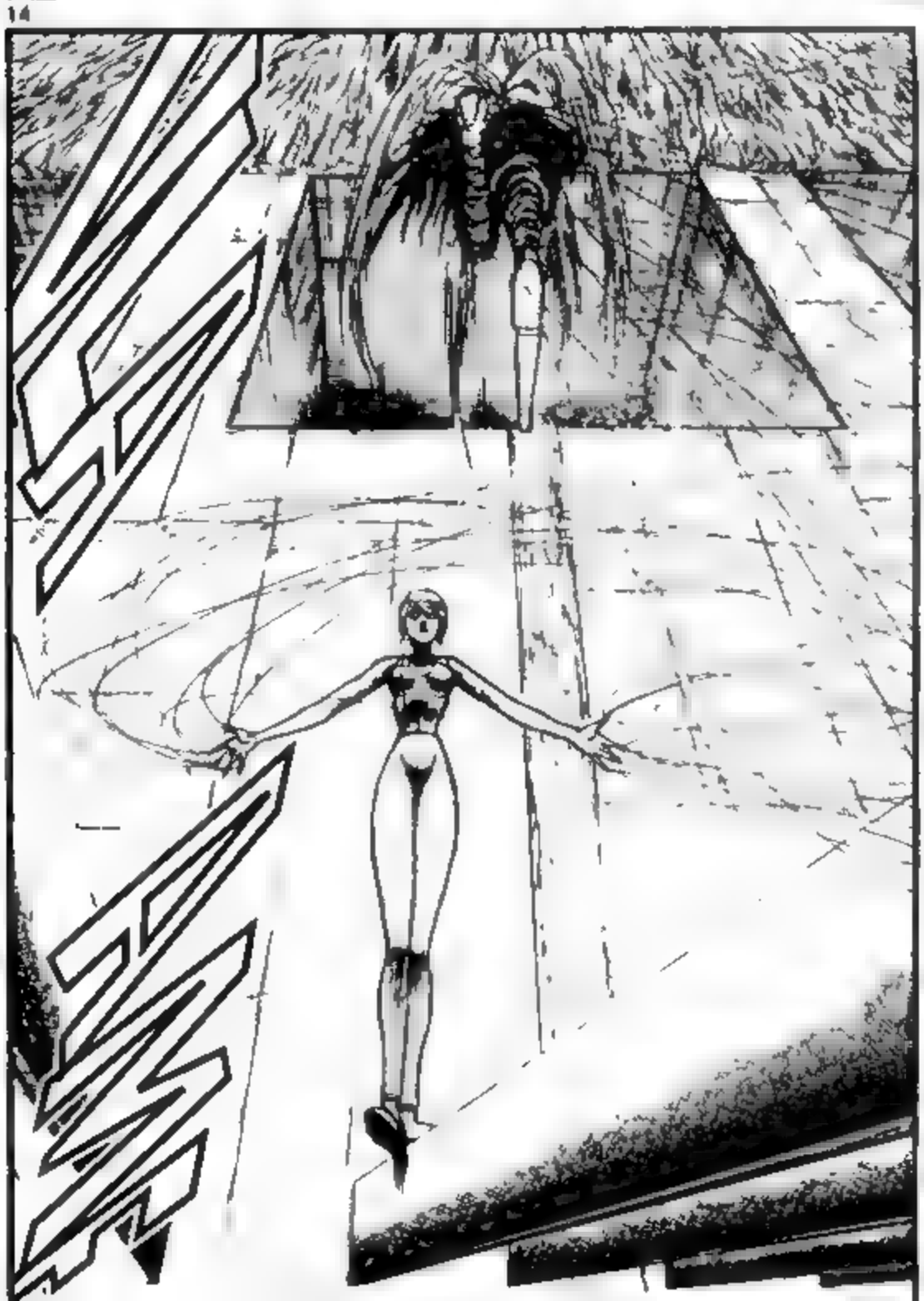

DAMN IT!

SLAN
GA


GHHH ...
NARUMI!
ZAH
DOOOOH

GOT IT
GO FOR IT SHIROGANE
I WON'T HOLD IT MUCH LONGER ...
ARLEQUIN!
WOW
TAN TAN

YOUR TURN TOUGH GUY !



KLIK
BATAAK
TAN

NARUMI !!
HEEYY!
BLOW

SHIROGANE!

LET'S GO ARLEQUIN !

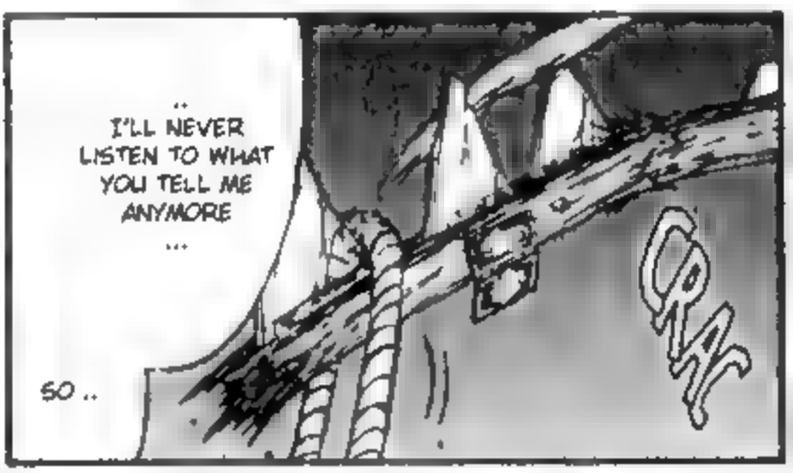
YOUR BLACK PUPPET'S PRETTY USEFUL !
OUF! I FEEL BETTER ...
GOHG
SBAM

... NARUMI ...
YOU'RE VERY USEFUL TOO ...

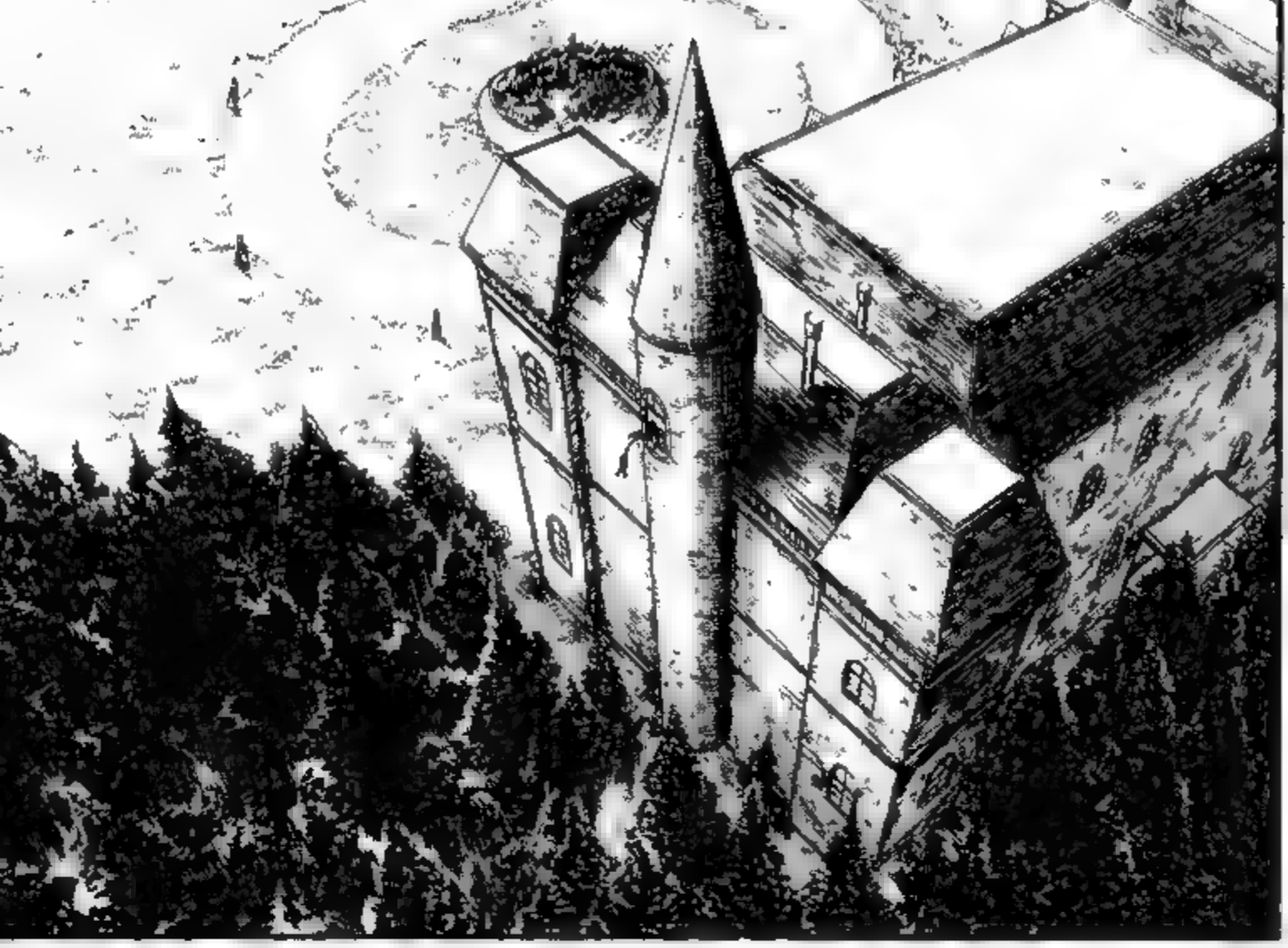
I'VE DECIDED ...
UNCLE ZENJI ..

CALM DOWN MASARU !
STOP IT!

DON'T BE STUPID!
STOP MASARU !


.. I'LL NEVER LISTEN TO WHAT YOU TELL ME ANYMORE ...
SO ..
CRAC

... GOOD BYE !
VLAMF



ACT I : MASARU

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN : "MASARU'S REBIRTH"

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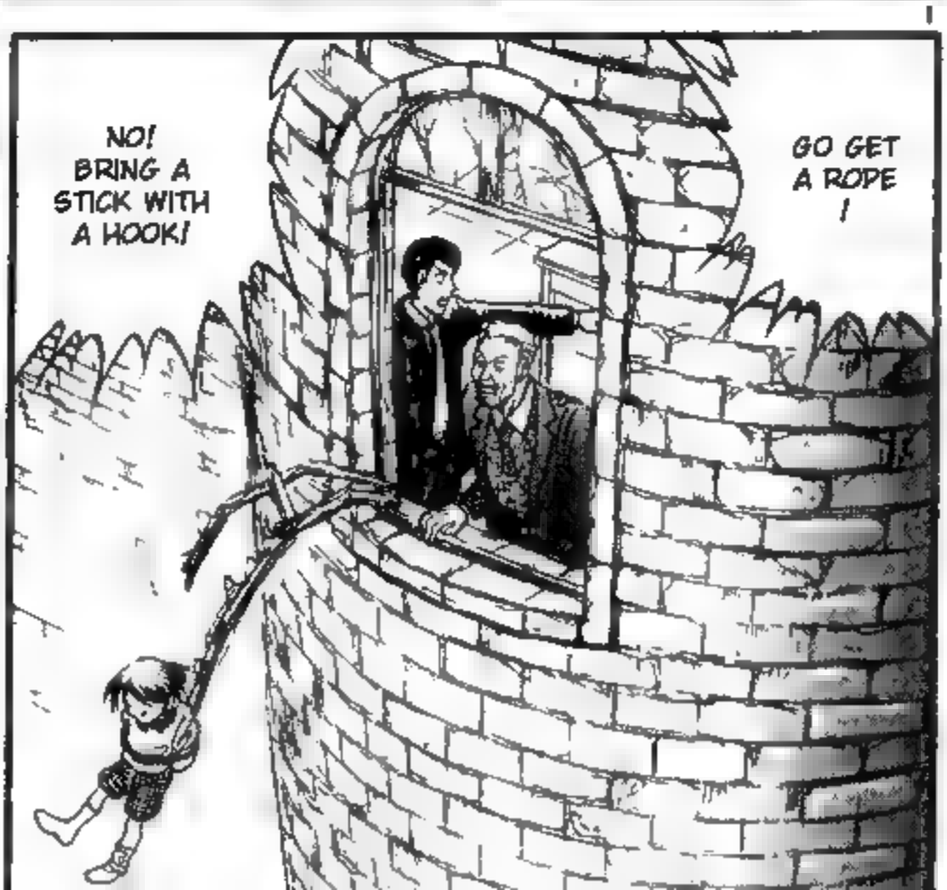
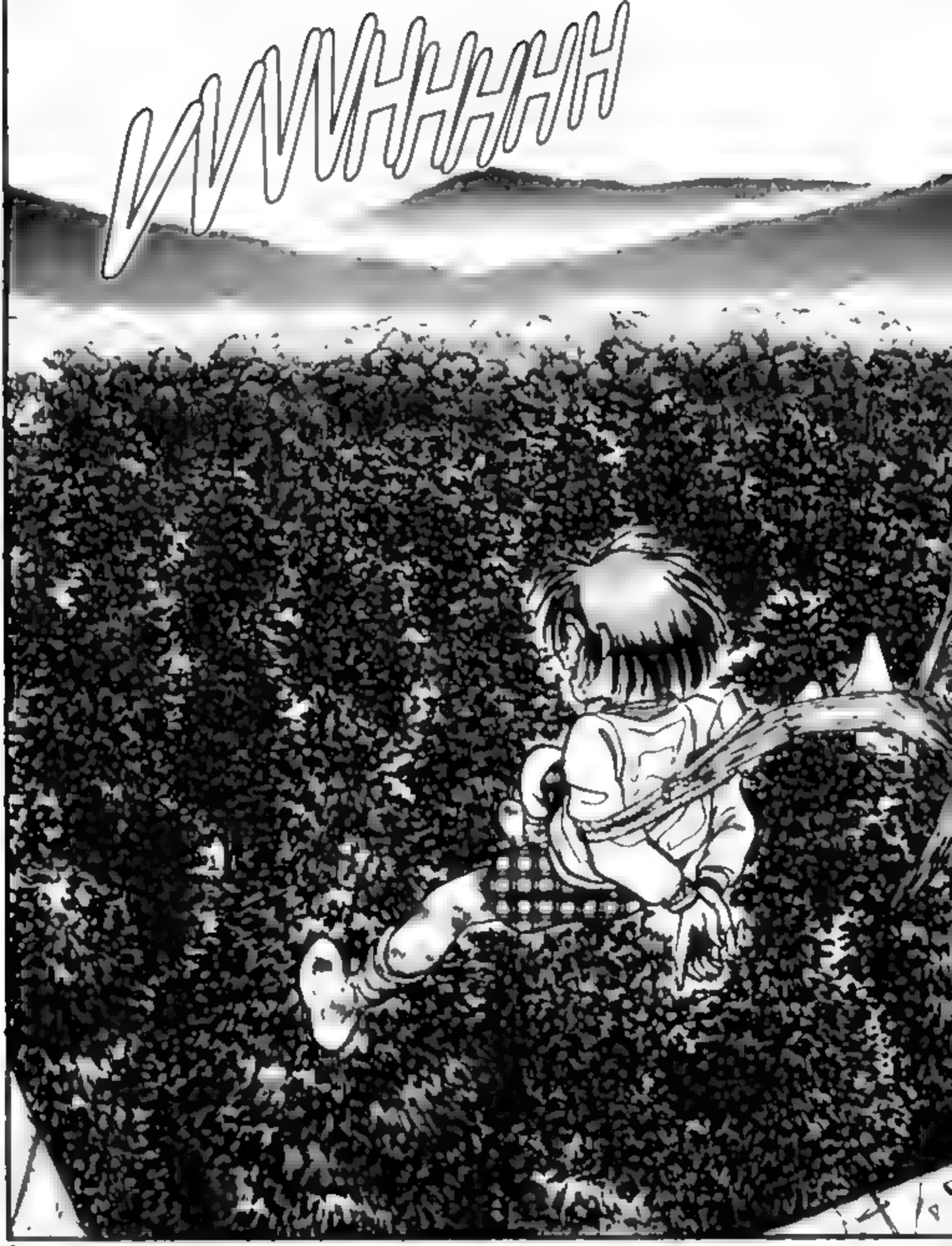




2

I'M GONNA
FAm!
DAW
DAW
DAW
AND I'M GONNA
DIE!

SBL
HAVE I DONE A SILLY THING ?
CLONG

GROAA

NOO!

HURRY UP!
GLOUPS

WHO HELPED ME.
THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES ...

I'VE DONE ALL THIS FOR NARUMI AND SHIROGANE

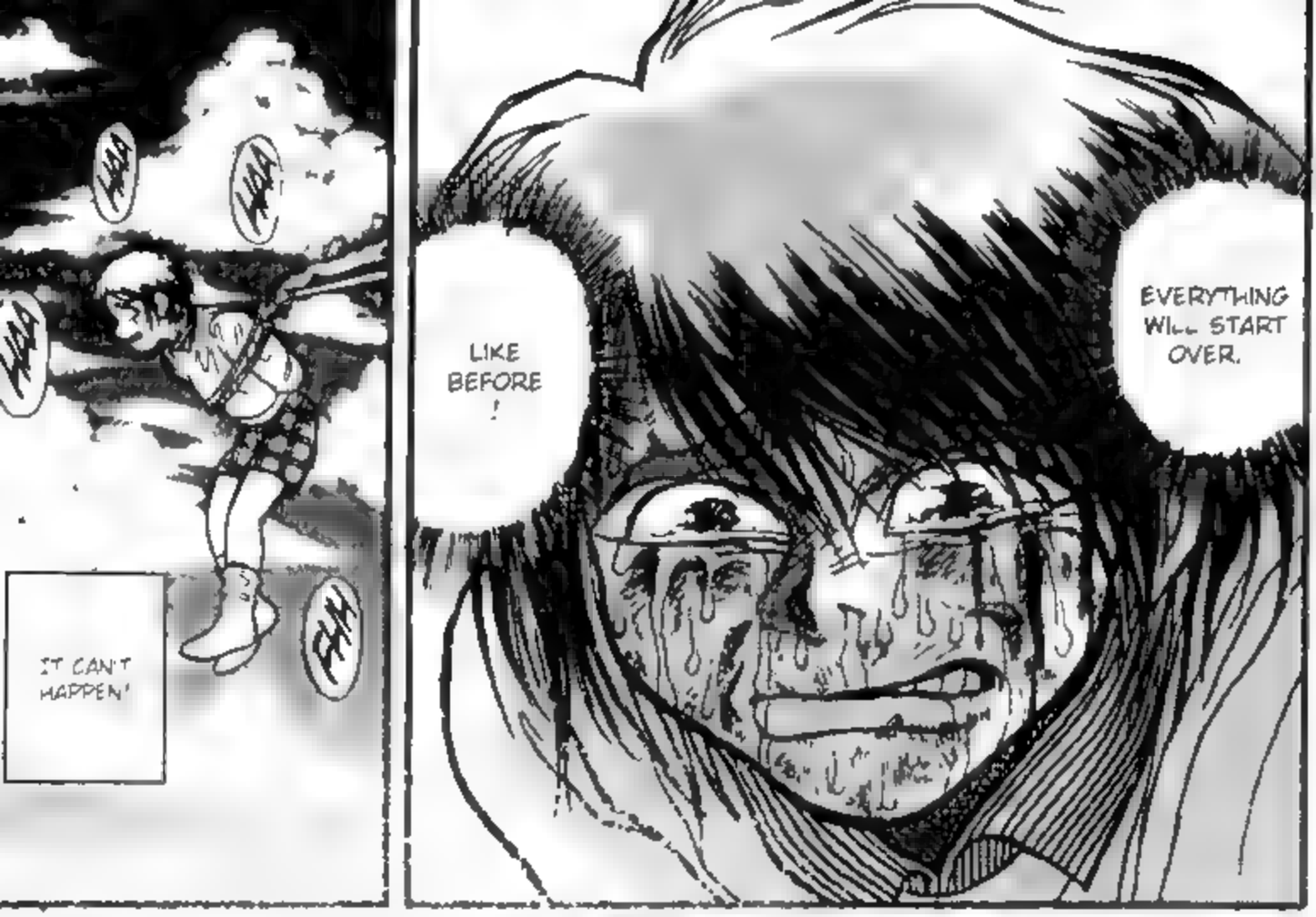
I GOT HIM !
SAH

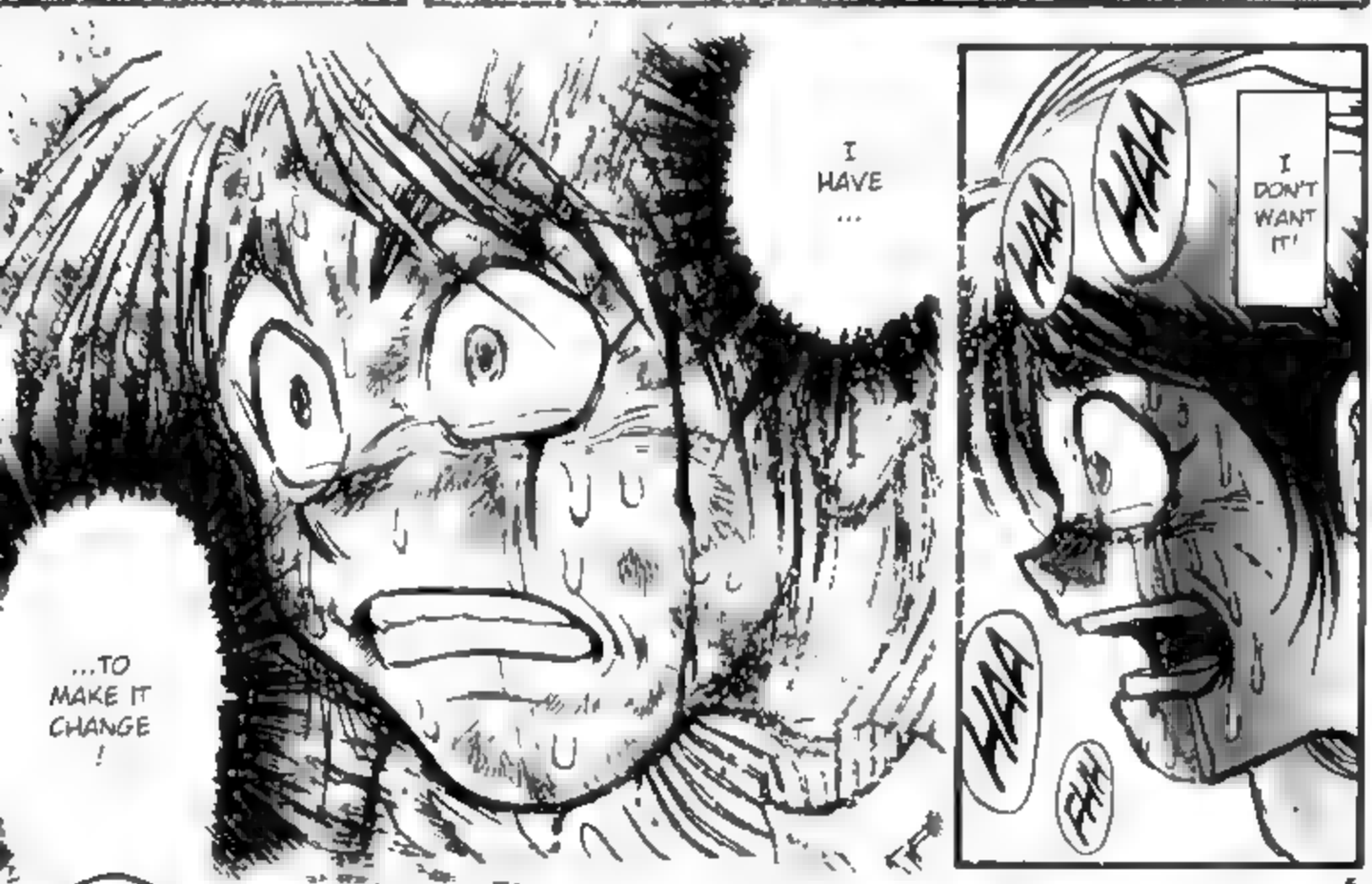
MY UNCLE ZENJI. . . HE WANTS TO ADOPT ME JUST FOR THE MONEY HE DOESN'T CARE AT ALL ABOUT ME
FASTER! THE KID MUSTN'T DIE BEFORE I GET TO ADOPT HIM OFFICIALLY !!

I DON'T WANT IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN!!
GHE

WILL I GO BACK
GHH
BRING HIM BACK GENTLY !

NARUMI AND SHIROGANE WILL COME BACK TO RESCUE ME AND THEY MIGHT GET HURT AGAIN
TO MY UNCLE ?
HM
HM


IT CAN'T HAPPEN!
LIKE BEFORE!
EVERYTHING WILL START OVER.


I DON'T WANT IT!
I HAVE...
...TO MAKE IT CHANGE!

UNCLE ZENJI...
SLOWLY...
WE'RE ALMOST THERE

AND FOR THE REST
THANKS FOR THE BREAK-FAST
... HE'S RIGHT ABOVE A PIT ... AND I CAN'T SEE ANY FEAR IN HIS EYES ...
WHAT IS IT WITH THIS BRAT?
... I'L.. NEVER BE YOUR SON!
I'VE DECIDED ..
YOU'RE NOT GONNA JUMP ANY-WAY, ARE YOU?!
MASARU .. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE GONNA DIE IF YOU FALL!
NO, MASARU! DON'T DO IT!
SO. . SEE YOU ...

YES!
I HOPE SO!
DIE?
7
IF I WERE TO SURVIVE THIS FALL ...
I'M SURE ...
THE MASARU INSIDE ME WHO CRIES ALL THE TIME!!
I'M GONNA KILL ...
I'D RATHER DIE..

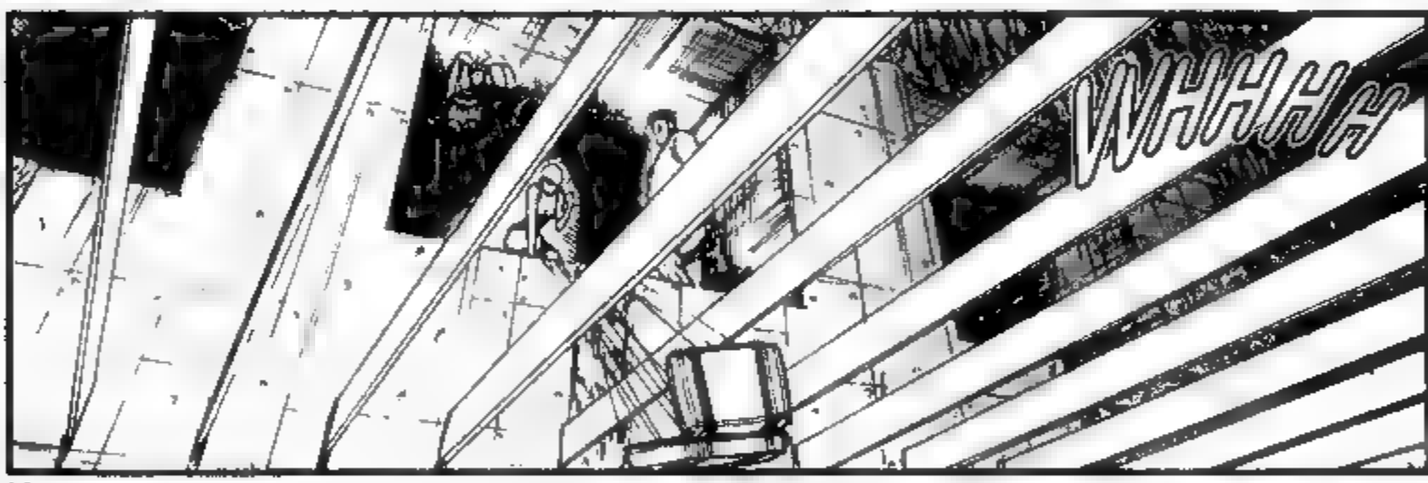
MASARU!
NOOOO!

SOMEONE WHO WOULD LAUGH AT ANY TIME!

I'D BE SOMEONE ELSE!

...
I MIGHT BE SAFE !
IF I FALL ON THE TREES ...

THE TREES ...


WHHHA

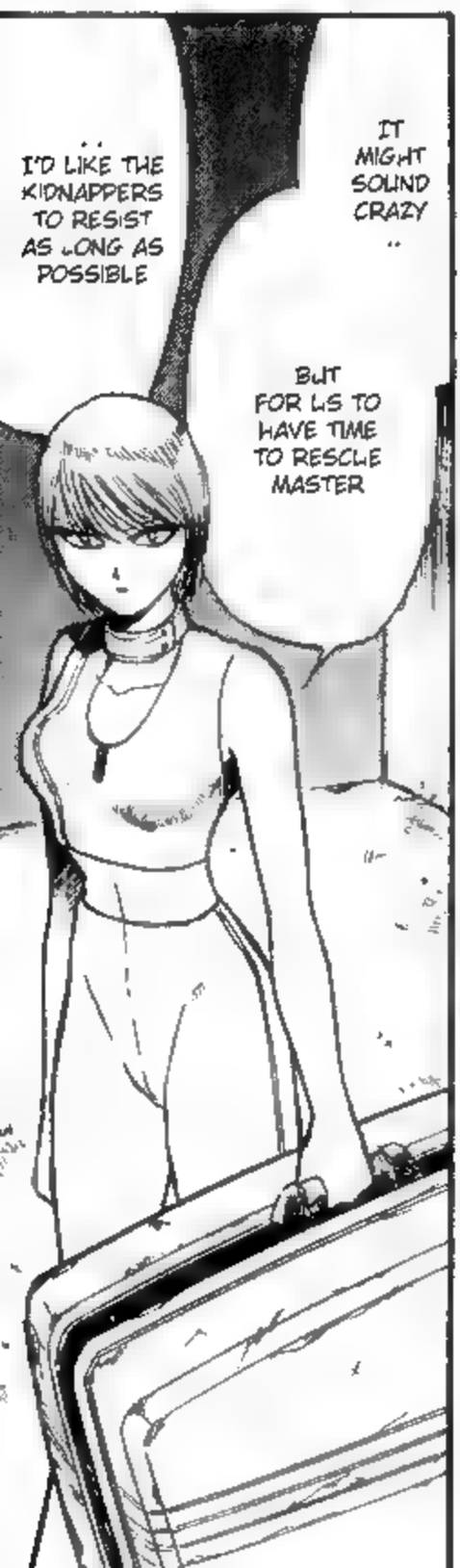
10

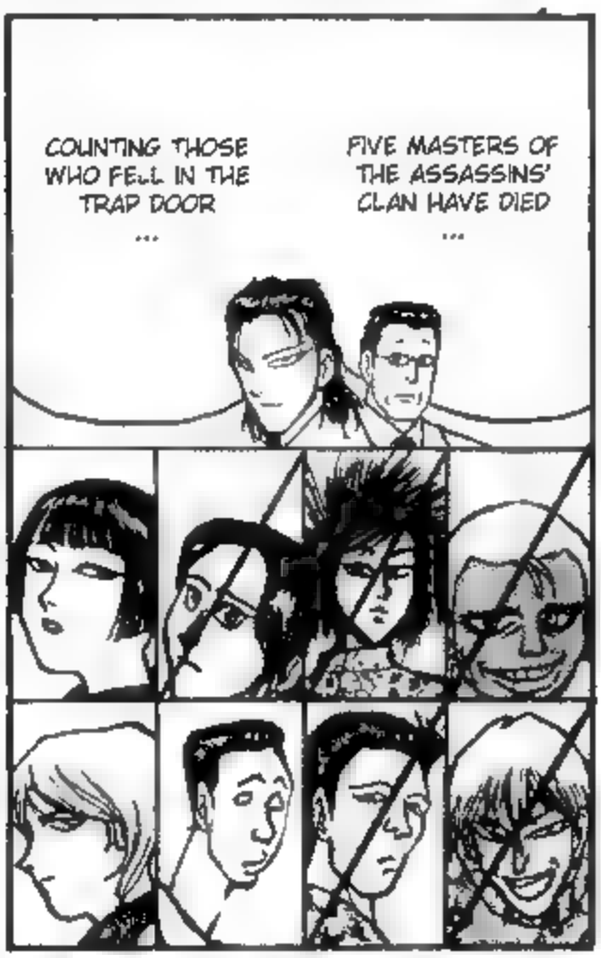
THE THREADS LINK ARLEQUIN TO THE CASE.
I THOUGHT THE CASE HAD FALLEN!
HOW ODD!
BLOM

GLNG

YEAH
..
WE GOT HERE ALMOST TWO HOURS AGO
...
WITH THE ASSASSINS' CLAN
LET'S GO GET MASTER !

VLOW


..
I'D LIKE THE KIDNAPPERS TO RESIST AS LONG AS POSSIBLE
IT MIGHT SOUND CRAZY
..
BUT FOR US TO HAVE TIME TO RESCUE MASTER

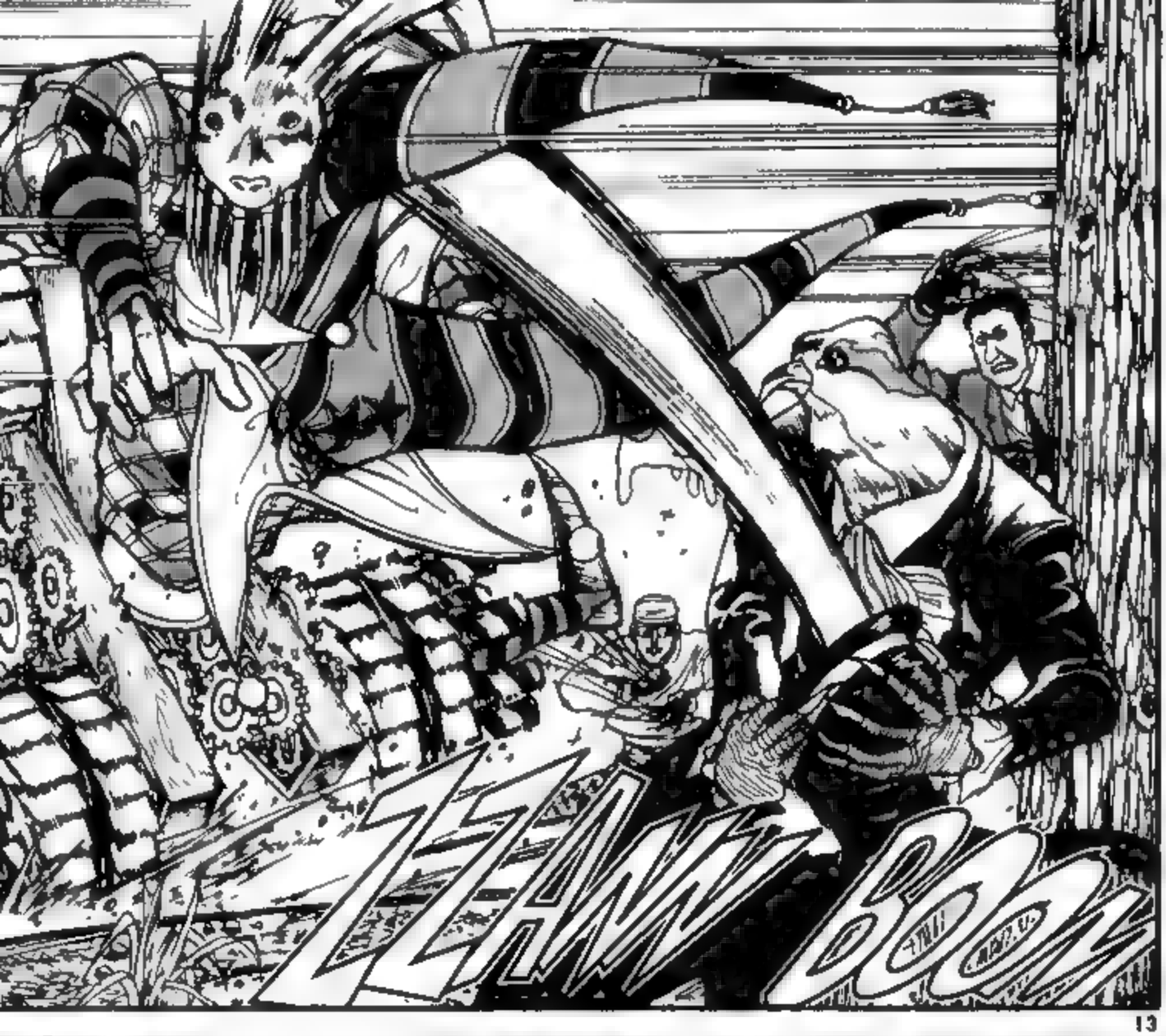

COUNTING THOSE WHO FELL IN THE TRAP DOOR
...
FIVE MASTERS OF THE ASSASSINS' CLAN HAVE DIED
...

THE PUPPET MASTERS FROM THE KIDNAPPERS' GROUP MUST BE STRONG
..

WHEREAS, ON THE KIDNAPPERS' SIDE, ONLY ONE OF THE SIX PUPPET MASTERS HAS BEEN KILLED

LET'S GO!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'RE MAKING SUCH A CLEAR WISH!
BZOIIIINNG
"I'D LIKE" ?
YES ... WHY ?
YOU'RE BORING !
I TOLD YOU !
I CAN SEE LIGHT OVER THERE.
SHUT UP!
IT MUST BE AN EXIT.
AND SO, YOU CAN'T EXPRESS ANY FEELINGS AT ALL, HUM ?
TAN
TAN
TAN

SSSHAHHH
BEHIND, AQUARIUS!
ZZOOF
SPAF
BOM
PAF


ZZANTOOM

HAH!

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE GRIMALDI'S SPEED!
HA HA HA! YOU'RE TOO SLOW HAZAMA!
ZA ZAAN

SAWIRA

SCHUK
GET AWAY, HAZAMA !
SAH
DAMN! AQUARIUS LOST...
HMMM ...
LOOKS LIKE WE FAILED
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE !!
I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU ALONE, BOSS!

VRROMM
VROM
VROMM
NOW, WE KNOW WHO IS THE BEST ... DON'T WE ASHIHANA ?

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD ENTER THE HOUSE THROUGH THE BACKDOOR, PASSING BY THE FOREST WHICH IS ASIDE...
BUT YOUR PLAN HAS FAILED!

COME ON, HURRY UP !
HA ...

HA! HA! HA!
BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO EVEN GET YOUR PUPPET OUT, AND YOUR CAR IS ONLY GOOD FOR THROWING AWAY NOW!

YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW GRIMALDI AND I WERE GUARDING THIS PLACE

15

CONGRATULATIONS ANYWAY, BECAUSE, AT LEAST, THREE OF YOUR MEN MANAGED TO GET IN THROUGH ANOTHER ENTRANCE.

... YOU'RE NOT EVEN ABLE TO KILL WITHOUT MASUMURA HOLDING YOUR HAND !

WHAT ?
OZAKI, EXCEPT LAUGHING AND CHATTING, WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?
I THINK ...

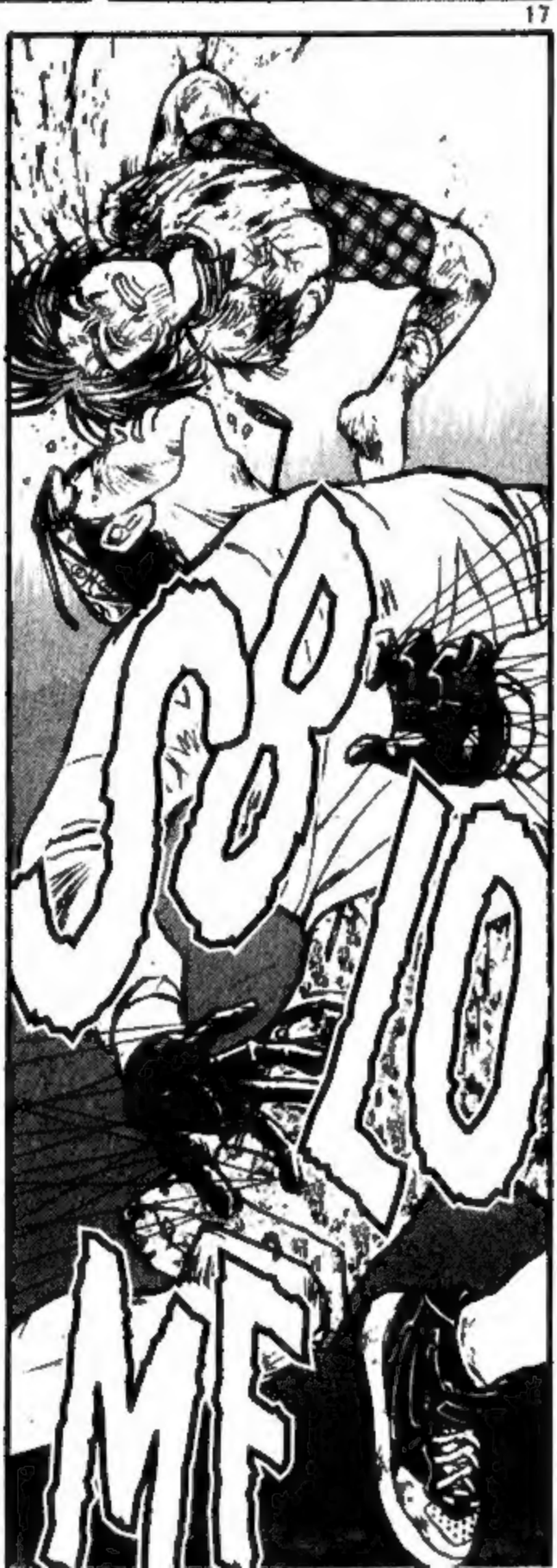
OH YEAH?! ... YOU THINK I CAN'T KILL YOU ?!!

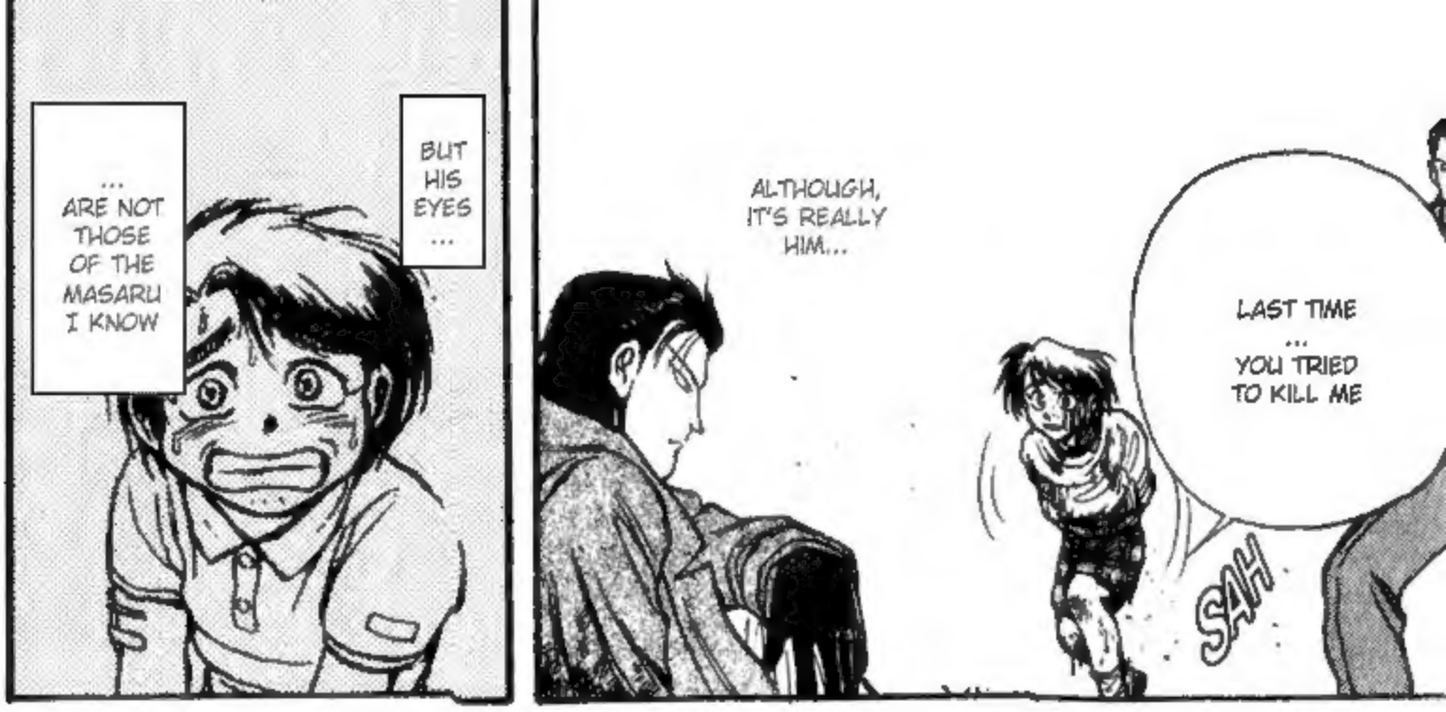
AAHH!

SLONG

IT'S THE KID !
WHAT ?!

HE LOOKS LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON!
THAT'S CRAZY ...
PAH


POW
MF


... ARE NOT THOSE OF THE MASARU I KNOW
BUT HIS EYES ...
ALTHOUGH, IT'S REALLY HIM...
LAST TIME ... YOU TRIED TO KILL ME
SAH!

WHAT ?!
TO HIRE YOU !
I WANT ...
I HAVE A DEAL FOR YOU
TAN TAN TAN

FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE!
HE'S GOT THE EYES OF A WILD ANIMAL ...

... YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME !
NOW ...